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GBA begins operations

BENGALURU
The five newly formed corporations of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officially began functioning on Wednesday, with all the appointed Commissioners taking charge. The government has arranged to disburse ₹300 crore to the corporations.
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Dharmasthala complainant's custody extended

BENGALURU/MANGALURU
A local magistrate court in State granted the custody of the 45-year-old complainant in the Dharmasthala mass burials case to the Special Investigation Team till September 6. » PAGE 6

GST Council approves two-rate tax slab effective September 22

Govt. keeps slabs at 5% and 18%; introduces 'special' 40% rate for goods such as tobacco and luxury items; removes tax on life insurance and health policies; move likely to reduce prices of daily-use goods, food items, life-saving medicines, cement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, during its 56th meeting, decided to revamp the tax structure into a primarily two-rate system, as proposed by the Central government, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Wednesday.

Apart from the two rates of 5% and 18%, the new GST system would also include a 40% "special rate" on sin goods such as tobacco and luxury items such as large cars, yachts, and helicopters.

The decisions will come into effect from September 22 for most items, she said. Only tobacco and tobacco-related products will move to the new structure at a date to be specified by the Finance Minister.

List is out: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking to the media after the GST Council meeting in New Delhi. PTI

The government also calculated that the net fiscal implication of the rate cuts, based on consumption patterns in 2023-24, would be ₹48,000 crore. However, the officials clarified that the real implication would be known on the basis of current consumption, and that the rate rationalisation was expected to result in a buoyancy effect, and improved compliance.

"These reforms have been carried out with a focus on the common man," Ms. Sitharaman said. "Every tax levied on the common man has gone through a rigorous looking into, and in most cases, the rates have come down. Labour-intensive industries have been given good support. Farmers and agriculture will benefit from the decisions. Health-related sectors will also benefit."

She said common-use and middle-class items will see a reduction, with products such as hair oil, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, bicycle, table and kitchen ware, and other household articles being moved to 5% from either 18% or 12%. The other items moving down to the 5% rate include namkeens, sauces, pasta, instant noodles, chocolates, coffee, and butter. Twelve specified bio-pesticides, biomenthol, and labour-intensive items such as handicrafts, marble, travertine blocks, granite blocks, and intermediate leather goods would move from 12% to 5%. Notably, cement will move from 28% to 18%.

No tax on Indian bread

The Finance Minister further said that items such as ultra-high temperature milk, paneer, and all Indian bread, including rotis, chapatis, and parathas would see their tax rate fall to 0% from the earlier 5%.

On insurance services, individual life insurance policies and individual health policies will move to 0% from 18%. A total of 33 life-saving medicines will move from 12% to 0%, The tax on electric vehicles has been retained at 5%.

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KEY REDUCTIONS
» PAGE 10

Governors must act 'forthwith' on Bills, States argue in SC

Governors create conflict by sitting over Bills for years together. Their doubts about the constitutionality of Bills is a bogey
KAPIL SIBAL
Counsel for West Bengal
Governors have to act on the advice of the State government. Governance cannot happen in a constant state of conflict
GOPAL SUBRAMANIUM
Counsel for Karnataka

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

States ruled by non-BJP parties argued in the Supreme Court on Wednesday that even a three-month deadline given in the *Tamil Nadu Governor* case judgment may be too long, and State Bills presented to Governors must be assented to by these "titular heads" forthwith.

West Bengal, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh said the will of the people, which the proposed laws manifest, cannot be sacrificed on the altar of the whims and fancies of Governors. They said sitting over Bills was a quiet disguise for denying assent, but without necessarily having to return the proposed laws to the legislature for reconsideration.

The three States said that if the Centre wanted them to presume that a high constitutional authority like the Governor would act with integrity while dealing with Bills, the same courtesy must be extended to State legislatures, which also happened to be high constitutional authorities.

Appearing before a five-judge Presidential Reference Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, said Article 200 required the Governor to return a Bill to a State Legislature "as soon as possible" in case he disagreed with it.

Mr. Sibal interpreted "as soon as possible" to mean "forthwith or immediately". "'Forthwith' must apply to Governors and President, who is actually the Union government, while dealing with grant of assent. Bills cannot wait," he submitted. The Governor had no business questioning the constitutionality of Bills. He was bound to grant assent if the legislature re-passed them. Later, once the Bills are notified as laws, citizens could test their constitutionality in court, he said.

He drew attention to Article 167, which made it the Chief Minister's duty to apprise the Governor of laws being contemplated by the State Cabinet. This was done as a part of the pre-legislative process.

The senior lawyer said the Chief Minister would meet the Governor for an informal interaction to discuss the crafting of a law and taking in suggestions. Later, once the Bill was passed by the legislature, the Governor was expected to give his assent.

Besides, Mr. Sibal pointed to the proviso of Article 254(2) of the Constitution that allowed Parliament to neutralise a repugnant State law by "adding to, amending, varying or repealing" it.

CONTINUED ON
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Rain fury claims dozens of lives across northern States

The Hindu Bureau
DELHI/CHANDIGARH/
SRINAGAR/RAIPUR

Heavy rain and floods continued to batter States in northern India on Wednesday, causing severe damage to life and property.

In Himachal Pradesh, 11 people died in the past 24 hours during which rain triggered landslides. In Punjab, the swollen Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers caused widespread devastation, with the State government pegging the death toll in recent rain-related incidents at 37.

In Jammu and Kashmir, two people were killed and hundreds rescued following a downpour. The Jhelum and Chenab rivers were flowing above the danger mark.

Nearly 100 border outposts of the Border Security Force and around 110 kilometres of fencing along the Pakistan border in Jammu and Punjab have been affected by floods, a senior government official said.

In Chhattisgarh, four people were killed, three were injured and three went missing when a small dam collapsed in Balrampur district.

A fresh low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal brought copious rain to Odisha and is likely to bring heavy rain to the Andaman islands and southern Bengal in the next few days.

Battered Himachal

In Himachal Pradesh, seven deaths were reported from Sundernagar in Mandi district, two in Kullu district and two from Bithal in Shimla district. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said 341 persons had died during this monsoon. The State saw 45 cloudbursts, 122 landslides and 95 flash floods, and incurred a cumulative loss of ₹3,526 crore till date.

Punjab Revenue Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian said the State is reeling under one of the "worst floods" in recent decades, with crop devastation reported across 1,75,216 hectares of farmland. The Minister said Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Mansa, Ferozepur and Fazilka were among the worst-hit of the State's 23 districts.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

New course: Floodwater enters homes along the banks of the swollen Doodh Ganga river in Dangerpora Wathoora of Budgam district in central Kashmir on Wednesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Head of Bhovi corporation to quit in view of corruption allegations

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation Chairperson S. Ravi Kumar has said he will resign in the wake of allegations of corruption.

'A conspiracy'

Speaking to presspersons here on Wednesday, Mr. Ravi Kumar said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called him over phone and inquired about the allegations. "I told him that it was a conspiracy against me. I will resign to avoid embarrassment to the government and the party," he said.

Regarding the video clip that went viral, Mr. Ravi Kumar claimed that video clip was doctored and artificial intelligence tools had been used. He claimed that the video was shot in his office and the conversation recorded was doctored. "I have demanded a probe into the whole issue," he stated.

The video clip

A video clip showing a conversation between a woman and the chairperson went viral in the last two days.

In the clip, Mr. Ravi Kumar was seen speaking about commission for granting benefits to eligible beneficiaries of a scheme in the corporation. There was also a reference to a Minister in the clip.

As the video went viral, Opposition leaders urged the State government to order a probe and take action against those involved.

The chairperson admitted to being in the video clip. However, he added that only a part of the conversation was real, and certain bits were added, probably using artificial intelligence.

Answering a question, he stated that Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa was in no way connected to the conversation.

He alleged that officials of the corporation were part of the conspiracy against him. "Earlier, there were charges of corruption in the corporation. After I took charge, I brought in discipline, and that must have made the officials unhappy," he added.

KCR daughter Kavitha quits as BRS MLC

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A day after the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leadership suspended MLC K. Kavitha from the party, she announced that she was resigning as MLC and also from the primary membership of the party.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Ms. Kavitha said it was due to pressure from party leaders T. Harish Rao and J. Santosh Kumar that party supremo and her father K. Chandrashekhar Rao was forced to take the harsh decision against her. She also clarified that she was not joining any other party.

FULL REPORT
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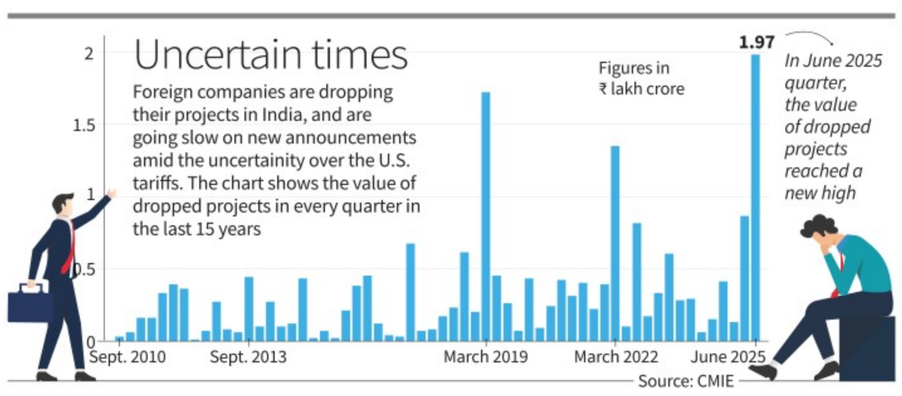
Foreign companies halted India projects worth ₹2 lakh crore in Q1

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Tariff-related uncertainty pushed foreign companies to pull the plug on nearly ₹2 lakh crore worth of projects in India in the first quarter of this financial year, more than 1,200% higher than the corresponding quarter last year.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that foreign private companies dropped projects worth ₹1.97 lakh crore in Q1 of 2025-26, the highest amount since at least 2010, the earliest date for which there is data, and 570% higher than the long-term quarterly average.


Uncertain times
Foreign companies are dropping their projects in India, and are going slow on new announcements amid the uncertainity over the U.S. tariffs. The chart shows the value of dropped projects in every quarter in the last 15 years
Figures in ₹ lakh crore
1.97
In June 2025 quarter, the value of dropped projects reached a new high
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
Sept. 2010
Sept. 2013
March 2019
March 2022
June 2025
Source: CMIE

The CMIE data further breaks up the dropped projects into those that have been abandoned entirely, shelved temporarily, stalled, or for which information is not available on why it was dropped. Given the recency of the data, the bulk of the dropped projects fall under the "lack of information" category.

Tariff woes

According to economists, however, the reason is clear: tariff-related uncertainty. The period between this April and June saw a lot of missed deadlines in terms of a 'mini trade deal' being announced between India and the U.S., which was supposed to address the issue of reciprocal tariffs imposed by the U.S. on Indian imports.

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I want to fulfil my father's dream of winning a CWG gold

Ajaya Babu talks about his formative years, ambition and the support from his dad Srinivasa Rao, a bronze medallist in the 2010 Commonwealth Games

VIJAY SONEJI

INTERVIEW

V. AJAYA BABU

Y.B. Sarangi

With weightlifting in his blood, it is no wonder that 20-year-old V. Ajaya Babu has worked his way to become a two-time gold medallist in Commonwealth weightlifting championships.

Following in his father and international lifter V. Srinivasa Rao's footsteps, Ajaya took to weightlifting. Now, the promising Andhra Pradesh lifter - who recently won his second consecutive Commonwealth gold medal in Ahmedabad and earned a ticket to the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games in men's 79kg - wants to land a gold in Scotland and make Srinivasa Rao (a 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games bronze medallist in 56kg) proud.

Ajaya emerged as a leading lifter last year when he claimed the titles in men's 81kg senior and junior divisions at the Commonwealth championships in Fiji. He also won gold in the Goa and Uttarakhand National Games in back-to-back editions and medalled in the National championships.

After stepping up his performance in a lower weight category with Commonwealth records in snatch, clean and jerk and total in Ahmedabad, Ajaya received a pat on his back from his idol, who eagerly watched his son's performance from the stands. Ajaya took some time to speak to *The Hindu* about his journey so far and targets in the future. *Excerpts:*

We know your father was also a weightlifter. And, he also competed and medalled in the 2010 Commonwealth Games. So, how did your journey start?

My journey started with the 2010 Commonwealth Games, when my father won the medal. After that I dreamt of becoming a weightlifter. I was very young. I didn't go to Delhi but I saw my father live on TV.

After that I started lifting around 2015. My father used to train me and I used to go to the gym with him (in Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh) and watch him train.

Initially, I was not serious about lifting. I used to go to the gym and come back.

But I used to follow my father and after one point in time, I decided to become serious. I wanted to do something in life, achieve something. I wanted to achieve more than my father, do better than what he did. That's how it started.

When did you become serious about weightlifting as a career?

From Class 10, I started taking the sport seriously. And at that time, my father also left the sport. After that, he also focused on me. In 2022, I won gold medals in the National junior and youth championships and then I came to the National camp at National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) Patiala. I continue to train over there.

Did your father ever put pressure on you to do well in weightlifting?

No. Till now, he has not put any pressure on me. If I tell him that I am not able to do lifting, I am having pain and injuries, he says, 'don't worry, it happens. Everyone goes through such times. You will do it.' After that, everything becomes fine.

For how long did he guide you as a coach?

He guided me for four to five years during my formative years. Until that time I had not become a National junior champion.

So, you have qualified for the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and will compete there like your father. How big is the dream for you?

My father had won a bronze medal at that time. Since then, I have been nurturing a dream that I want to get a gold in the Games. I want to fulfil his dream, which he could not do – winning a gold.

How do you compare your father's game with that of yours?

My father's game was very strong. His clean and jerk was strong. In my game, the clean and jerk is weak. My snatch is strong, but his snatch was weak.

The weight categories are also different. He used to compete in 56kg whereas I am competing in 79kg now.

Of both of you, whose game had better advantage?

He had more advantages as he is much stronger than me. I haven't achieved as much as he has. I will achieve it in the future. I will try as much as I can.

Is there any pressure being the son of an accomplished lifter?

I don't have that much pressure. I do my lifting with a free mind.

What kind of improvement have you noticed in your game after joining the NCoE?

After coming to NCoE, I understood the real way of training at a National camp. It is different from how it is outside because there is a lot of doping (cases happening) outside and there is no doping at the National camp. There is a lot of difference. It is difficult to perform (well while being) inside the camp.

I got the knowledge of how to compete, how to manage time and competition. My technique has also improved a lot.

What does your father say about your performance?

Sometimes he says that you have done well and you have to do better. We don't discuss the sport that much.

How far can you take yourself at the international level?

I have to perform well in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, and then think beyond.

When you won the gold medal in the Commonwealth championships in Fiji last year, you competed in 81kg. Now you are competing in 79kg. Was it difficult to cut two kg?

In Fiji, I did 147kg in snatch and 179kg in clean and jerk. I have managed the lower weight well. I had decided six months back, after the National Games, that I would lose two kg and get set at 79 kg. I have already maintained the diet and now I don't have any problem. When I lost weight for the first time I felt that I was getting cramps and my body was getting dehydrated. So I came to know how to deal with the body. Now I am fully set in this weight.

In the last selection trials (on June 30), I did 155kg in snatch and 175kg in clean and jerk (in the new weight category). Here (after two months), it was better in the competition (snatch 152kg, clean and jerk 183kg, total 335kg). I hope to keep improving.

Five new city corporations begin operations

GBA Chief Commissioner says the authority will primarily focus on disciplinary functions, planning, boosting economic growth of the corporations, and executing mega projects.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, with the GBA Commissioners, at the inauguration of the newly formed GBA, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The five newly formed corporations for Bengaluru's civic administration officially began functioning on Wednesday, with all the appointed Commissioners taking charge. The government has arranged to disburse ₹300 crore to the corporations and approved a long-pending proposal to recruit 500 engineers.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurated the headquarters of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), formerly the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) head office, launching the GBA.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Shivakumar said that all Ccommissioners had officially assumed charge and were briefed on the way forward. "We will distribute ₹300 crore to the five corporations for administrative purposes such as salaries and setting up offices. Once revenue generation begins, further planning will follow," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

A well-placed GBA source confirmed that the government had asked them to plan the recruitment process of 500 junior engineers. Currently, there are about 300 engineers. Mr. Shivakumar further stated that each corporation would have two IAS officers, one KAS officer, and two chief engineers, while each ward is expected to be assigned an engineer to improve city maintenance.

"Bengaluru's development will not happen overnight, but it will happen gradually. Commissioners and their teams need to put in 16 to 17 hours of work every day," he said, adding that all Commissioners had been asked to be on the ground and work actively. "They will be supported by young officers," he said. In the meantime, all BBMP bank accounts have ceased operation. Each corporation will soon have its own accounts, while a single account has already been created in the name of the GBA, though it is not yet operational. As a result, the progress of ongoing projects may slow down temporarily.

According to GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, each corporation will begin replacing name boards and signages that currently bear the name of BBMP. Once ward boundaries are finalised, ward details will also be added to dedicated boards.

Explaining the GBA's role, Mr. Rao clarified that the authority will primarily focus on disciplinary functions, planning, boosting economic growth of the corporations, and executing mega projects. He added that the current priority is the delimitation process, expected to begin on Thursday. At the same time, preparations for corporation elections will also get under way.

Dy. CM has invited citizens to suggest an alternative name for GBA as a response to criticism on the authority not being named in Kannada

When asked about expanding the GBA's jurisdiction to include more areas, Mr. Shivakumar indicated that expansion plans would be taken up after the corporation elections. "For now, the focus will remain on delimitation and holding the elections," he said.

"If we take it up now, we will face litigation and legal hurdles, which will be a burden at this stage. We will consider it after the elections," he said, hinting at a possible increase in GBA members to 80.

At present, the newly formed corporations cover an area of 720.9 sq. km, the erstwhile BBMP area.

Responding to criticism from the Opposition over the name GBA not being named in Kannada, Mr. Shivakumar invited citizens to suggest an alternative name. He added that similar concerns had arisen in Mumbai as well and emphasised that the mother tongue would never be neglected.

Bailey bridges on cards at city's congested project sites

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), said that the Bailey bridge technique is being actively considered to ensure smooth traffic flow on stretches affected by ongoing infrastructure projects.

A Bailey bridge is a portable, prefabricated modular structure, commonly used in flood-hit areas to reconnect two separated regions. In Bengaluru's case, where ongoing infrastructure projects are disrupting traffic, the civic authority is exploring the use of such bridges to facilitate seamless movement of vehicles in affected areas.

However, Mr. Rao emphasised that this is only an idea under active consideration, as the technique has certain shortcomings, despite the estimated cost of assembling one structure being around ₹5 crore.

"It takes about a week to assemble, which could itself cause inconvenience. Still, we will explore the option," Mr. Rao said, adding that a company in Kolkata manufactures these bridges. He further said that local start-ups with similar solutions would also be encouraged.

Potholes

Mr. Rao revealed the plan while responding to a question on potholes reappearing in the city due to poor-quality repairs. "Potholes are reappearing because of flooding and the simultaneous execution of multiple infrastructure projects. With five to six civic agencies working across the city, damage to road infrastructure is inevitable," Mr. Rao said, stressing that filling potholes is only a temporary measure.

Mr. Rao noted that the government has therefore planned large-scale whitetopping.

"About 500 km of whitetopping has already been completed, another 500 km is in the pipeline, and the total target is about 1,500 km," Mr. Rao said. "We are working on improving the city's infrastructure, and people should cooperate and be patient," he added.

Mr. Rao further said that most complaints about recurring potholes are coming from areas where infrastructure projects are under way, such as Bannerghatta Road and Silk Board.

He also mentioned that whitetopping work had to begin on J.C. Road, but heavy rain disrupted the project, causing further inconvenience to commuters. To address such challenges, the civic body is considering the use of Bailey bridges, he reiterated.

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has announced a disruption in power supply on September 5, 6, and 7 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to facilitate the stringing of HTLS conductors for the single-circuit Sarjapur-Attibele 66 kV line.

Areas under the 66/11 kV Attibele station, including Yadavanahalli, Ichanguru, Vaddarapalya, Attibele Industrial Area, Balagaranahalli, Manchanahalli, Attibele Town, Mayasandra, Dasanapura, Balluru, Kamblipura, Chikkanahalli, Indlabele, Harohalli, and nearby localities, will experience interruptions. Similarly, areas connected to the 66/11 kV Anekal station—such as Anekal Town, Kavala Hosahalli, Gowrenahalli, Haldenahalli, Hompalagatta, Choodenahalli, Honnakalashapura, Karpuru, Byagadadenahalli, Kada Agrahara, Chikkahagade, and Doddahagade—will also face outages. In addition, regions linked to the 66/11 kV Samanduru station, including Samanduru, Rachamanahalli, Guddanahalli, Aravantigepura, P. Gollahalli, Telagrahalli, and Vanakanahalli, will remain without electricity during this period.

Social Justice Film Festival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

St. Joseph's University's English association, NOUS, will host the 27th edition of the Social Justice Film Festival on Saturday at 9 a.m. in the university auditorium.

Curated by documentary filmmaker R.P. Amudhan, the festival will showcase films addressing pressing social issues.

Featured documentaries include *Messi, Maradona and Tremenheere*, *Only if the Baby Cries...*, *Lyari Notes*, *Dreams Awaken*, *Her Name was Sita*, and *Ore Vaathiyam* among others.

For more details, visit https://socialjusticefilmfestivals.blogspot.com/

Every fourth adult in State is hypertensive as per NFHS, says Health Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a significant health concern in Karnataka, with the NFHS-5 report indicating a prevalence of around 25% for women and 26.9% for men in the above-15 age group, higher than the national average, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Wednesday.

'Silent epidemic'

The Minister, who inaugurated a sensitisation workshop on hypertension and other non-communicable diseases, said hypertension is a silent epidemic and if left unchecked, it leads to strokes, heart attacks, kidney failure, and premature deaths.

"NFHS-5 findings show that every fourth adult in Karnataka is hypertensive. This means lakhs of people in our State are living at high risk of chronic illness and sudden medical emergencies, often without being aware of it. The economic burden is also significant - rising hospitalisations, loss of productivity, and financial strain on families," the Minister said.

Stating that it calls for urgent collective action - early detection, healthy lifestyle choices, and reliable treatment services, the Health Minister said, "Our government is committed to expanding screening, ensuring medicines at every Health and Wellness Centre, and driving community awareness campaigns."

He said the community-level screening under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) will be expanded. "Lifestyle interventions such as diet, exercise, and reduced salt intake will be promoted through awareness campaigns. Besides, we will ensure the availability of essential medicines and diagnostics for hypertension management at all Health and Wellness Centres," he said.

In childhood

Oncologist U.S. Vishal Rao, who spoke on childhood hypertension, said no State government is screening children for hypertension in schools. "Studies show a rising trend of hypertension in children, in both urban and rural areas. Factors such as obesity, consumption of oily and junk food, lack of awareness about disease status and sedentary lifestyle contribute to the high burden," he added.

Total lunar eclipse on the intervening night of September 7 and 8

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total lunar eclipse will occur on the intervening night of September 7 and 8, which will be visible from all parts of the country between 8.58 p.m. and 2.25 a.m.

According to the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, the penumbral eclipse will begin at 8.58 p.m. followed by the partial eclipse, which will commence at 9.57 p.m on September 7. It added that the total eclipse will begin at 11 p.m.

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium will organise demonstration lectures about the lunar eclipse

While the maximum eclipse is at 11.41 p.m., the total eclipse will end at 12.22 a.m., the partial eclipse and penumbral eclipse will end at 1.26 a.m. and 2.25 a.m. respectively.

Lunar eclipses occur on a full moon day when the Earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon and when all the three objects are aligned. There are three types of lunar eclipses: total, partial and penumbral.

A total lunar eclipse will occur when the whole Moon comes under the umbral shadow of the Earth and the partial lunar eclipse occurs only when a part of the Moon comes under shadow of the Earth.

No special equipment

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium said that no special equipment is needed to view the lunar eclipse.

"It is safe to view through the unaided eye. The public can view this eclipse from their respective places, provided the sky is clear. This eclipse is visible all over India," it said.

It further said that demonstration lectures about the lunar eclipse will be organised late in the evening of September 7 at the planetarium. "Any eclipse viewing activity will be subjected to sky conditions during the monsoon period," it said.

The dog that was rescued near Parappana Agrahara.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Search for bear leads to missing dog

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest department officials who had set out to search for a bear, that some claimed was spotted near the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara on Wednesday evening, stumbled upon a dog which had gone missing a few days ago. In a happy ending, the rescued dog was later reunited with its owners.

'Sloth bear'

Officials upon receiving a message from local residents that a "sloth bear" had been spotted near the Central Prison visited the area and instead found a black dog. "We were told that a bear was roaming near the boundary wall of the prison. A team was formed to track it, however when we reached the spot we found a dog which had gone missing a few days back," an official said.

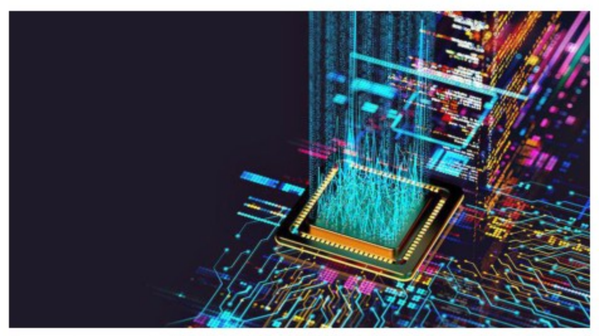
It all started when a resident of an apartment in Choodasandra on Wednesday captured a video of an animal resembling a bear roaming near the boundary wall of the prison.

Residents of the locality then alerted the Forest Department and prison officials and shared the video with them who later set out to trace the animal.

A Forest Department official said that there are no forest areas around Parappana Agrahara, and if at all a wild animal was spotted there, it could have ventured from Bannerghatta, which is close to the central prison.

VAIA launches equity-free AI residency programme for AI startups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


The residency will provide access to VAIA's proprietary LLM, VAIA GPT. Applications are open for the next cohort starting November 15, 2025 which ends on January 15, 2026. GETTY IMAGES

Investment and sustainability advisory firm VAIA has announced the launch of Vaia Agentic AI Residency, which provides an equity-free fully paid mentorship programme for budding AI startups, builders or operators. The programme charges no fee and takes zero equity in participants' ventures.

The first phase of the nine-week immersive programme will select up to eight builders. The participants will live together in a fully furnished residence and receive support and credits for cloud and AI services.

Weekly one-on-one mentorships, fireside chats with AI entrepreneurs and experts, and collaborative workshops are included as part of the residency which will also have regular demo days to showcase progress and gain feedback. Access to technical and computing resources will also be provided as per a communique from the organisation.

Applications are now open for the next cohort starting Nov. 15 which ends on Jan. 15

"I don't think there is a dearth of capital for (good) AI startups in the country. However, access to the right mentorship and tools remains a massive challenge," said Shruthi Cauvery, Founder and Managing Partner, VAIA.

According to her the number of participants in the programme will be gradually expanded over the next two years. "After the residency ends, builders can continue to build with us or choose to build on their own and rely on the connections they have built during the residency," she added.

The residency will also provide access to Vaia's own proprietary LLM, VAIA GPT. Applications are now open for the next cohort starting November 15 which ends on January 15.

CM: Expansion of Jakkur Aerodrome runway under consideration

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the State government is reviewing the possible expansion of the runway at Jakkur Aerodrome and on ways to make full use of the land available there.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting on the development of the Government Aviation Training School (GATS) and Jakkur Aerodrome, the Chief Minister said two proposals are currently under discussion.

"Since a flyover has come up here, there is some hindrance. Earlier, it was not known that a flyover would come in this location," he said.

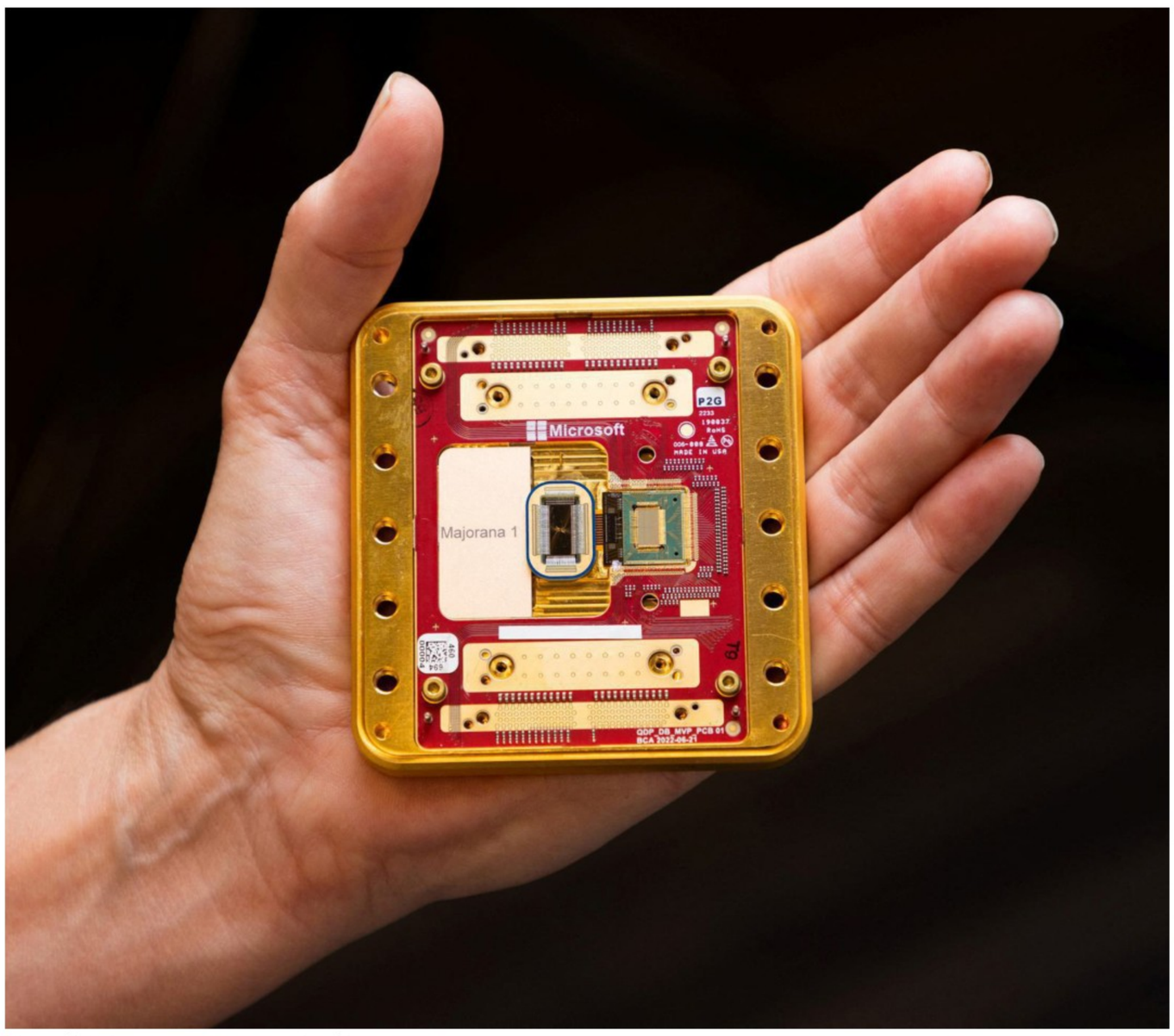
The Jakkur Aviation Training School presently operates on over 200 acres. Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "The government is considering acquiring more than three acres of adjoining land to facilitate runway expansion. However, the landowners are not ready to part with their property and the cost has become expensive."

The Chief Minister further said the government is looking into how the available land can be best utilised for public purposes. "As there is a court order that the training school must continue, the government is examining what further steps can be taken," he added.

How Majorana particles promise to shield quantum computers from noise

In our everyday world, swapping two oranges changes nothing; in the quantum world, bosons don't change their wavefunction when swapped, fermions change only by a minus sign; if you exchange two non-Abelian anyons, however, the joint quantum state changes in a deeper way

Vasudevan Mukunth



Microsoft's Majorana 1 quantum computing chip. REUTERS

In the race to make quantum computers practical, scientists have found themselves drawn to some of the strangest ideas in physics. Few are stranger – but also more promising – than the notion of using particles that are their own antiparticles to store and manipulate information. This is the concept behind Majorana particles.

In the 1930s, the Italian physicist Ettore Majorana proposed a particle that, unlike the electron or proton, would be indistinguishable from its antimatter counterpart. In most cases, matter and antimatter are exact opposites. If you bring them together, they annihilate in a flash of energy. But a Majorana particle is a perfect mirror of itself: if you turn it inside out and reverse every charge and property, you get the very same thing you started with. This is not true for electrons or protons.

For decades, this symmetry seemed the stuff of theory alone. High-energy physicists searched for Majoranas in cosmic rays and particle accelerators but revealed nothing conclusive. Then, more recently, condensed matter physicists found a loophole: certain "quasiparticles" inside specially designed materials behave mathematically like Majoranas. These quasiparticles aren't elementary particles from nature's catalogue but collective excitations – like ripples in an electron sea – that follow the same unusual rules. They may emerge, for example, at the ends of tiny superconducting wires cooled to near absolute zero, under the influence of a magnetic field.

The fact that these Majorana-like modes could exist in a tabletop experiment electrified the quantum computing community. That excitement was not because they are rare, beautiful oddities (indeed they are) but because of the prospect that they might solve one of quantum computing's hardest, most stubborn problems: keeping quantum information stable.

First line of defence

What plagues a quantum computer? A qubit, the quantum analogue of the bit in your laptop or smartphone, can exist in a superposition, or a blend, of '0' and '1' at the same time. This strange property, along with entanglement between multiple qubits, is what gives quantum computers their potential power. But a qubit's state is almost absurdly delicate. If a qubit interacts with the surrounding world, like say some stray heat or light, its superposition can "collapse," forcing the qubit into a definite 0 or 1 and erasing the information it held.

This process, called decoherence, is relentless. In today's most advanced superconducting quantum chips, qubits can last microseconds to milliseconds before decohering. That may sound long, but for a computer that must carry out thousands or millions of operations in sequence, it is too brief. To cope, engineers use quantum error correction, which encodes one logical qubit into a bundle of many physical qubits. The redundancy allows the computer to detect and fix errors on the fly, but it comes at a cost: hundreds or thousands of physical qubits may be needed to sustain just one logical qubit. This is the bottleneck. If there were a way to make qubits inherently more resistant to errors and protect their quantum state at the hardware level, the whole enterprise would become far more efficient.

This is where Majoranas offer a radically different approach. Imagine a qubit not as something stored in a single, fragile object but as a property that two widely separated pieces share. This is possible with Majorana modes. In certain superconductors, electrons form bound pairs, but in the right conditions, the quantum state of one electron can, in effect, be split in two. Each half behaves like a Majorana mode.

In the 1930s, the Italian physicist Ettore Majorana (pictured here c. 1930s) proposed a particle that, unlike the electron or proton, would be indistinguishable from its antimatter counterpart. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Crucially, these two halves can be placed far apart along the same nanowire or in different regions of a device. Together they define a single qubit, but the information about whether that qubit is in state 0, 1, or a superposition of both is stored in the combined state of both Majoranas. If a disturbance affects one of them – say, a bit of local noise or a defect in the material – it can't by itself destroy the encoded information. Both halves will have to be disrupted in a correlated way, and that is far less likely.

This nonlocal encoding is the first line of defence. It's as if you wrote the first half of a secret in one notebook kept in Paris and the second half in another locked away in Tokyo. Stealing one notebook doesn't reveal the secret: you must have both.

Weaving braids

The protection does not end there. Majorana modes also belong to a rare class of quantum objects called non-Abelian anyons. To appreciate what this means, it helps to step back and think about how particles normally behave when you exchange their positions.

In our everyday world, swapping two identical oranges changes nothing at all. In the quantum world, identical particles fall into two well-known categories. Bosons (e.g., photons) do not change their overall wavefunction when swapped. Fermions (e.g., electrons) change only by a minus sign, a mathematical quirk that still leaves most observable properties untouched.

Non-Abelian anyons are different. If you exchange, or "braid," two of them, the joint quantum state changes in a much deeper way. The swap doesn't just multiply the state by a constant; it transforms it into an entirely new state. What's more, the order in which you do these swaps matters. Swap particle A with particle B, then swap B with C, and you end up with a different final state than if you had swapped B with C first, then A with B.

This is alien to ordinary intuition. Imagine three dancers on a stage who change the choreography of their whole performance based on the sequence in which they pass each other, not just on whether they pass.

The fact that Majorana modes are non-Abelian opens up a new way to perform quantum computation. In a suitable device, you can physically move these modes around each other, tracing out paths in space and time. This process is called braiding because if you draw the paths, they look like strands in a braid.

Each braid corresponds to a specific transformation of the quantum state shared by the Majoranas. The beauty is that the outcome depends only on the topology of the braid – the abstract over-and-under pattern – and not on the exact physical details of the motion. You could move them slowly or quickly, take a detour around an impurity in the material, or shake them gently as you go. The result would be the same as long as the braiding pattern itself is preserved.

In principle a quantum computer could be programmed simply by moving its Majorana modes through a sequence of braids. Its robustness would come not from layer upon layer of qubits but from the fundamental physics of the particles themselves

This property makes computations built from braiding topologically protected. In practical terms, that means small errors in timing, position, or environmental noise are unlikely to derail the computation. Nature itself 'rounds off' the imperfections, the way a knot remains a knot no matter how you twist the rope, until you actually untie it.

Pushing the frontiers

In principle, a topological quantum computer could be programmed simply by moving its Majorana modes through a prescribed sequence of braids, each one implementing a logical operation. The machine's robustness would come not from layers upon layers of error-correcting qubits but from the fundamental physics of the particles themselves.

Contrast this with today's leading quantum computing platforms: superconducting qubits, trapped ions, and spin qubits in semiconductors. In all these systems, operations must be controlled with exquisite precision, and any environmental disturbance must be suppressed as much as possible. The qubit states are localised, so an unwanted jolt or fluctuation at that location can flip or randomise the qubit. The protection comes entirely from engineering discipline and active error correction, both of which require enormous complexity.

With Majorana-based topological qubits, the hope is that much of that complexity is unnecessary. Because the information is stored nonlocally and manipulated by braiding, the qubit's essential properties are shielded from small-scale noise. This does not make them invincible – there are still ways errors can creep in, such as through quasiparticle poisoning or imperfect isolation – but the baseline stability could be orders of magnitude better.

The catch is that the promise is still mostly theoretical. Experiments over the last decade have produced tantalising signals consistent with the presence of Majorana modes – in nanowires made of materials like indium antimonide, coupled to superconductors, under a magnetic field. Measurements of the electrical conductance at the wire's ends have shown patterns that fit the predictions for Majoranas. But sceptics point out that other, more mundane effects can mimic these patterns.

The ultimate proof would be to demonstrate braiding: to move the modes around each other and show that the system's quantum state changes in exactly the way non-Abelian statistics predict. This is a delicate task. The modes have to be moved without losing their identity, kept well-isolated from ordinary electron states, and manipulated in two dimensions, even though most current devices are effectively one-dimensional wires. Researchers are currently designing more complex geometries to make braiding feasible.

If successful, Majorana-based qubits could change the economics of quantum computing. Instead of needing a million physical qubits to get a few thousand logical ones, a machine might operate with far fewer qubits, each naturally robust. The hardware could be simpler, the error-correction overhead smaller, and the computations faster and more reliable. This would not just accelerate the arrival of practical quantum computers, it could also open the door to computations that are currently out of reach because of noise and instability.

It's also worth noting that the pursuit of Majoranas has already pushed the frontiers of condensed matter physics. In trying to coax these particles into existence, researchers have learned to grow cleaner nanowires, make better superconducting contacts, and control materials at the atomic scale. Even if the ultimate prize remains elusive, the technological by-products are likely to feed into other areas, from quantum sensing to new kinds of electronics.

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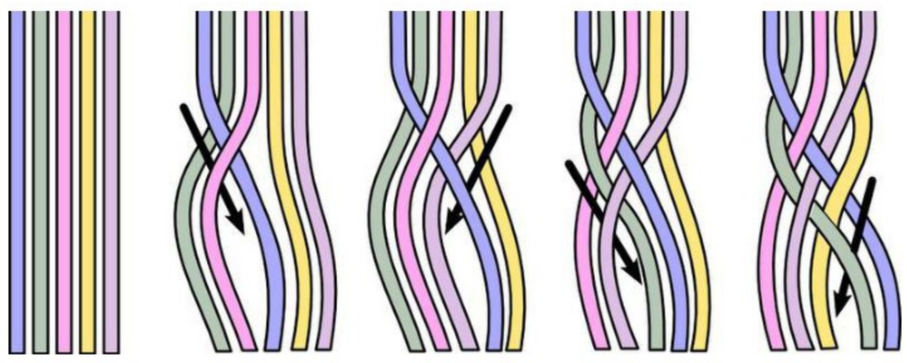
A method to braid five strands. STILFEHLER (CC BY-SA)

Sunlight filters through the clouds, illuminating the Esrange Space Center, a base deep in the Swedish forest and a part of Europe's hope to compete in the space race in Kiruna, Sweden, on August 19, 2025. AP

Sweden's forest base is key to Europe's entry into space race

Associated Press

Deep in the Swedish forest, where reindeer roam and scientists ski in winter, lies one of Europe's hopes for a spaceport that can ultimately compete with the United States, China, and Russia.

For decades, Europe has relied on the US for its security among the stars. But the Trump administration's "America First" policies plus a commercial market that's growing exponentially have prompted Europeans to rethink their approach.

The state-owned Esrange Space Center in Kiruna, Sweden, is among the sites building out orbital rocket programs to allow Europe to advance in the global space race and launch satellites from the continent's mainland. Currently, Europe's only space base capable of launching rockets and satellites into orbit is in French Guiana, an overseas department of France in South America that's roughly 500 km north of the equator. Otherwise, Europe borrows NASA's Cape Canaveral in Florida.

During a speech in February at the Munich Security Conference, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance warned Europe against continuing to rely on the U.S. and urged officials to "step up in a big way" to provide for the defence of the continent.

Vance's remarks, as well as concerns over tech billionaire Elon Musk's politics potentially affecting Ukraine's dependence on his Starlink satellite system in its war with Russia, alarmed European leaders.

It became clear to them that the continent must have its own space ecosystem, with its "own capabilities to really be able to react with (its) own means and under (its) own control," Hermann Ludwig Moeller, director of the European Space Policy Institute, said.

In February U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance warned Europe against continuing to rely on the US and urged officials to step up in a big way to provide for the defence of the continent

In March, Isar Aerospace launched the first test flight of its orbital launch vehicle from the Andøya Spaceport, another site on an island in northern Norway. Moeller believes a successful orbital launch from continental Europe could occur within the next year, though he won't guess where. Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom are also among the countries seeking to be part of Europe's spaceport portfolio.

Esrange and Andøya date back to the 1960s, and much of their space-bound appeal stems from their far-north geography on the earth.

Esrange is owned and operated by the Swedish Space Corporation and based more than 200 km north of the Arctic Circle. The space center's 30-plus antennas can more easily communicate with satellites orbiting the North Pole compared to infrastructure that's near the equator.

Most important, perhaps, is its size. The base itself encompasses 6 sq. km, where experts conduct Martian lander parachute tests, suborbital rocket launches, and stratospheric balloon experiments.

But its key selling point is Esrange's rocket landing zone: 5,200 sq. km of birch, pine, and spruce trees spread north across the Swedish tundra, nearly to the Norwegian and Finnish borders.

The territory is uninhabited besides the Sami Indigenous reindeer herdersAndøya's remote location on a Norwegian island, meanwhile, means rockets can safely crash down into the sea without risking harm to humans.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Workshop at Jain varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CUBEC, Jain (Deemed-to-be University), in collaboration with the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), will host a workshop titled "The Power of Frugal Sciences: Prof. Manu Prakash in Conversation with Science Educators and Teachers" on September 6 at 2 p.m. at the School of Sciences, J.C. Road.

The event will feature Prof. Manu Prakash, associate professor of Bioengineering at Stanford University.

Rakta Dwaja to be staged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A play titled "*Rakta Dwaja*," directed by Dakshayani Bhat A., will be performed by the Dhrushya Theatre troupe on Saturday.

The performance will take place at Suchitra Cine Academy in Banashankari II Stage at 7 p.m.

Man pushed to death in road rage incident

The accused have been arrested and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, according to the police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 61-year-old man was pushed to death in a road rage incident in a trivial row over parking near a private hospital where he had come for treatment, on Deve Gowda Road in R. T. Nagar in the early hours of Wednesday. The accused, now arrested, works as a delivery executive in the city.

The victim, Syed Nisar Ahmed, 61, a resident of Kauser Nagar, suffering from paralysis and breathing issues had come to the hospital in a car with his son and son-in-law for consultation. The victim and his son noticed that the accused had parked his scooter obstructing the path and reportedly asked him to move it aside. Heated arguments ensued, and in the melee, the accused accompanied by his female friend allegedly assaulted the victim and pushed him to the ground. While Nasir Ahmed fell down and developed complications, his son, who was also pushed down and sustained a ligament injury. The duo was rushed to emergency, where Nasir succumbed to injuries. People caught the accused and handed them over to the police.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Shariff, 30, a resident of Hebbal working as a delivery executive, and his friend Tehreen Fathima, 26. They too had come to the hospital for consultation, the police said. The doctors suspect that Nasir might have died due to a possible cardiac arrest, though the exact cause of death will be ascertained after post-mortem.

Based on the complaint by his son, the police have registered a case charging the accused under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023. The duo has been arrested.

Minor girl charred to death in accidental fire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A one-and-a-half year old girl was charred to death while sleeping in a room situated in the basement of a residential apartment on Cunningham Road on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Anu, the only daughter of Pushkar Kumar, 25 and Jyothi Kumari, 22.

The couple hailed from Nepal and worked in an apartment as a security guard and domestic help for the last eight years and were living in a room situated in the basement of the apartment.

According to the police, the couple locked Anu in the room, as she was sleeping and went to work. They returned at around 6 p.m. and noticed the room was filled with smoke and there was fire in the room.

Other residents in the apartment tried to rescue the girl. They forced open the door and found the baby burnt alive in the room and alerted the Fire and Emergency Services.

A fire tender rushed to the spot and doused the fire. The child's body was sent for post-mortem.

Case filed

The police filed an unnatural death report case. The police suspect that the fire was due to an electric short circuit. The blanket the girl was covering caught fire and the girl was burnt while sleeping.

Toddler sleeping on the footpath abducted in Shivajinagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of men allegedly abducted a seven-month-old baby boy sleeping next to his mother on the footpath of Atal Behari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, Shivajinagar, in the early hours of Sunday.

The accused pushed the mother on the ground and sped away in an autorickshaw after she woke up and tried to resist. The mother ran behind the autorickshaw and raised the alarm for help, but in vain.

She later approached the Commercial Street police and lodged a complaint based. The police have registered a case under Section 137(2) (kidnapping from India or from lawful guardianship) based on the complaint.

The complainant Kamatchi Muniyappan, 24, a resident of Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, along with her husband and child had come to sell wigs, balloons and dolls in Shivajinagar. The couple was sleeping on the footpath with the baby, after feeding her son Naveen Kumar. Around 3.30 a.m., the mother sensed some movement and woke up to see a group of men picking up the baby and fleeing.

She raised an alarm and the couple resisted, but they were pushed on the ground and the accused sped away in an autorickshaw along with the baby. The police are now analysing the CCTV footage from in and around the locality to identify the accused.

It may be recalled that a similar case was reported in May this year at the same spot.

In that case, a one-year-four-month-old boy, Rohith, sleeping next to his father on the footpath outside Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Bengaluru, was abducted.

The police tracked down a woman beggar in Mysuru who had abducted the boy.

Another boy, injured in firecracker accident during Ganesha procession, dies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A boy, who was severely injured in a firecracker accident during a Ganesha idol immersion procession near Doddaballapur town on the outskirts of Bengaluru on August 29, succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday, taking the death toll in the incident to two.

The deceased has been identified as Yogesh, 15, who was among the nine people, including a police constable, injured. Dhanush, 15, was killed on the day of the accident.

According to the police, Yogesh, who was rushed to a private hospital and later shifted to Victoria hospital burns ward succumbed on Tuesday. A multi-shot cracker box, which was kept on a forklift carrying the Ganesha idol, was ignited due to a heated silencer and hit the members of the crowd.

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of children disabled in the war in Gaza

21,000 Children in Gaza have been left disabled since the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023, as per the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Nearly 40,500 children have suffered war-related injuries. AFP

Bodies recovered after Sudan's landslide in the Darfur region

100 Rescue teams have recovered bodies from under the mud after a landslide buried the remote village of Tarasin in Sudan's Darfur region, according to the Abdulwahid al-Nur faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army. The landslip was triggered by heavy rains. AFP

The cost of the Giant Sea Wall project in Java, Indonesia

80 In $ billion. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and China's President Xi Jinping discussed plans to build a massive sea wall along the northern coast of Java, known as the Giant Sea Wall project. Jakarta estimates the climate project will take 15 to 20 years to complete. REUTERS

The value of smuggled cigarettes and liquor destroyed in T.N.

12.5 In ₹ crore. Customs officials in Chennai destroyed over 5.5 lakh sticks of foreign-origin cigarettes, along with liquor and e-cigarettes worth crores, which were seized from Tiruvallur district last month. The contraband lacked mandatory health warnings. PTI

The value of Indian made foreign liquor seized in Maharashtra

1.34 In ₹ crore. The excise department seized Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) in Thane, Maharashtra, and arrested one person for illegal transportation. Officials recovered 1,400 boxes of liquor manufactured in Goa. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Should reservations exceed the 50% cap?

What do Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution guarantee? How are formal and substantive equality different? Are reservations an exception to the idea of equality of opportunity or a continuation? Are reservation benefits concentrated within specific sub-castes in OBCs, SCs and STs?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:
The leader of the opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, has declared that if voted to power, their alliance would increase reservation to 85%. In another development, the Supreme Court has issued notice to the Union government on a petition demanding the introduction of a 'system' similar to the 'creamy layer' for reservations among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)

What are constitutional provisions?
Articles 15 and 16 guarantee equality to all citizens in any action by the state (including admissions to educational institutions) and public employment respectively. In order to achieve social justice, these Articles also enable the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or Other Backward Classes (OBCs), SCs and STs. A brief summary of important developments with respect to reservations at the central level is provided in the Table. The reservation in the Centre at present stands as follows – OBCs (27%), SCs (15%), STs (7.5%) and for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), 10%, resulting in a total reservation of 59.5%. The reservation percentages vary from State to State according to their demographic profile and policies.

What have courts ruled?
The issue arises due to two ostensibly competing aspects of equality – formal and substantive. The Supreme Court in *Balaji versus State of Mysore* (1962) noted that reservations under Articles 15 and 16 for backward classes should be 'within reasonable limits' and should be adjusted with the interests of the community as a whole. The court further ruled that such special provisions for reservation should not exceed 50%. This is seen as an endorsement of formal equality where reservations are seen as an exception to equality of opportunity and hence cannot exceed 50%.

Substantive equality on the other hand is based on the belief that formal equality is not sufficient to redress the difference between groups that have enjoyed privileges in the past and groups that have been historically underprivileged and underrepresented. A seven-judge Bench in *State of Kerala versus N. M. Thomas* (1975) have broached the aspect of substantive equality. The court in this case opined that reservation for backward classes is not an exception to equality of opportunity but is an assertion and continuation of the same. However, since the 50% ceiling was not a question before the court, it did not give a binding judgment on this aspect in the case.

In the *Indra Sawhney* case (1992), a nine-judge Bench upheld the 27% reservation for OBCs. It opined that caste is a determinant of class in the Indian context. Further, in order to uphold the equality of opportunity, it reaffirmed the cap of 50% for reservation as held in the *Balaji* case, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The court also provided for the exclusion of a creamy layer within OBCs. In the *Janhit Abhiyan* case (2022), the court by a majority of 3:2 upheld the constitutional validity of the EWS reservation. It held that economic criteria could be a basis for reservation and opined that the 50% limit set in the *Indra Sawhney* case was meant for backward classes while the EWS reservation of 10% is for a different category among unreserved communities.

Moment of reckoning: Maratha community members celebrate after the Maharashtra government accepted activist Manoj Jarange Patil's demands, including granting Marathas Kunbi caste certificates which will make them eligible for reservation benefits available to OBCs, in Mumbai, on September 2. PTI

The journey of reservations

A brief summary of important developments with respect to reservations at the central level

Year	Key development
1950 and 1951	Commencement of the Constitution and the First Amendment — enabling provisions in Articles 15 and 16 for the advancement of OBCs, SCs and STs
1982	Reservations for SCs and STs fixed at 15% and 7.5% respectively in central educational institutions and public sector undertakings
1990	The introduction of 27% reservation for OBCs in central government employment based on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission
2005	Article 15(5) inserted by the 93rd constitutional amendment that enabled reservations for OBCs, SCs and STs in educational institutions, including private ones
2019	Articles 15(6) and 16(6) inserted by the 103rd constitutional amendment which enabled up to 10% reservation for the EWS among the unreserved category in educational institutions and public employment

What are the competing arguments?
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his Constituent Assembly speech in November 1948 justified the need to have reservations for backward communities that have been left out in the past. He also opined that reservations should be confined to a minority in order to uphold the guaranteed right of 'equality of opportunity.'

However, there has been a growing demand for increasing the reservation percentage beyond the judicial cap of 50% to reflect the proportion of backward classes in the population. The demand for a caste census has been strong in order to have actual data about this proportion rather than mere estimates. It must also be noted that as per various government replies in Parliament, 40-50% of seats reserved for OBCs, SCs and STs in the Central government remain unfilled.

Another contentious issue relates to the concentration of reservation benefits. The Rohini Commission, set up for providing recommendations on the sub-categorisation among OBC castes, has estimated that 97% of reserved jobs and seats in educational institutions have been garnered by just around 25% of the OBC castes/sub-castes at the central level. Close to 1,000 of around 2,600 communities under the OBC category have had zero representation in jobs and educational institutes.

A similar issue of concentration of reservation benefits persist in SC and ST categories as well. There is no exclusion of 'creamy layer' for these communities. In *State of Punjab versus Davinder Singh* (2024), four judges of a seven-judge Bench impressed upon the Central government the need to frame suitable policies for the exclusion of 'creamy layer' in SC and ST reservations. However, the Central government in a cabinet meeting in August 2024 reaffirmed that the 'creamy layer' does not apply to reservations for SCs and STs.

Critiques who are against the extension of a 'creamy layer' to SCs and STs argue that the vacancies for these communities are anyway not fully filled. Therefore, the question of a 'creamy layer' within such communities usurping the opportunities of even more marginalised castes does not arise. It is also likely that the exclusion of a 'creamy layer' based on any criteria will result in an even more increased backlog of vacancies. There is also a fear that such backlog vacancies may be converted in the long run to unreserved seats thereby depriving the SCs and STs of their rightful share of opportunities.

What can be the way forward?
Right to equality of opportunity is a fundamental right and an increase in reservation up to 85% may be seen as violating such right. Nevertheless, substantive equality through affirmative action is required to uplift the underprivileged. Based on empirical data of the ensuing Census in 2027, which will also enumerate backward castes, there must be wide ranging discussions with all stakeholders to arrive at a suitable level of reservation. Equally important is to implement sub-categorisation among the OBCs as per the Rohini Commission report based on Census data. With respect to SCs and STs, as demanded in the plea before the Supreme Court, a 'two-tier' reservation system may be considered. Under such a scheme, priority would be given to more marginalised sections before extending it to those who are relatively well-off within those communities. These measures would ensure that benefits of reservation reach the more marginalised among the underprivileged in successive generations.

It must also be borne in mind that considering the opportunities available in the public sector and the young population of our country, any scheme of reservation would not meet the aspirations of large sections of the society. There must be sincere efforts to provide suitable skill development mechanisms that would enable our youth to be gainfully employed.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- Articles 15 and 16 guarantee equality to all citizens in any action by the state (including admissions to educational institutions) and public employment respectively.
- There has been a growing demand for increasing the reservation percentage beyond the judicial cap of 50% to reflect the proportion of backward classes in the population.
- Right to equality of opportunity is a fundamental right and an increase in reservation up to 85% may be seen as violating such right. Nevertheless, substantive equality through affirmative action is required to uplift the underprivileged.

BSWML raids markets and industrial areas, seizes 9,567 kg of single-use plastic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has cracked down on single-use plastic, seizing over 9,500 kg of banned material and collecting fines worth ₹7.38 lakh in recent raids in various markets and industrial areas.

BSWML officials conducted surprise inspections on producers, stockists, and vendors, seizing plastic worth several lakhs of rupees, following orders by Karee Gowda, BSWML Chief Executive Officer. A godown in K.R. Market was also sealed during the raids.

In K.R. Market alone, officials seized more than 6,339 kg of plastic, imposing fines of over ₹33,500. At Avenue Road, 300 kg was seized with fines of ₹40,000, while in Kalasipalya, 150 kg was confiscated with penalties of ₹45,900. Yeshwantpur market reported 110 kg of seized plastics and fines of ₹61,800.

About 27 cases in Peenya Industrial Area resulted in the seizure of 450 kg of plastic and penalties of over ₹1 lakh.

In Dasarahalli, a single case led to the seizure of 218 kg with a fine of ₹50,000.

In Chamarajpet, Akkipet, and Balepet, where 2,000 kg of plastic were seized, ₹4.07 lakh was collected as fine. In all, 158 cases were booked.

Knowledge partnership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, and the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY), have signed a strategic Knowledge Partnership in Nano Scale Science and Engineering at SEMICON India 2025 in New Delhi on Tuesday.

SUNY Albany will support the creation of a Static Nano Technology Lab at RUAS to train students in advanced nanotechnology.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the public that I have lost three original documents i.e., A) Original Absolute Sale Deed dated 10.10.2005 executed by Valsa Jose in favor of Manjunatha D.V and I. Anasuya, bearing Document No. KEN-1-15576-2005-06, Stored in CD No. KEND235, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Kengeri, Bengaluru; B) Original General Power of Attorney dated 23.12.2014 executed by I.Anasuya and Manjunatha D.V in favor of C. Babu Naidu, bearing Document No. ADJ/235/2014-15, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Jayanagar, Bengaluru; C) Original Absolute Sale Deed dated 07.01.2015 executed by I.Anasuya and Manjunatha D.V represented by GPA holder C. Babu Naidu in favor of Ramakrishnayya.P, bearing Document No. RRN-1-05193-2014-15, stored in C.D No. RRND151, registered in the office of the Sub- Registrar Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru relating to property bearing Site No. 40, Katha No.58, Formed in Sy No. 39/2 & 38/2B (converted for non-agricultural residential purpose, vide Conversion Order bearing O.M No. B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)120/1995-96, dated 02.01.1996) situated at Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, BBMP Ward No. 198, Hemmigepura (Rajarajeshwarinagara), Measuring East to West: 60Ft and North to South: 20Ft, totally measuring 1200 Sq Ft, bounded on **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. 45 & 46, **North by:** Site No. 39, **South by:** Remaining portion of Site No. 40.

I have also filed complaint before the concerned police online and the same is registered as Lost Article Report bearing No. 1751958/2025, dated 14.08.2025. If anybody find the said Original Absolute Sale Deed dated 10.10.2005, Original GPA dated 23.12.2014 and Original Sale Deed 07.01.2015, kindly hand over to me Sri Ramakrishnayya .P, S/o Poojappa, R/at No. 111, Kambipura, Kumbalagodu, Bengaluru-560074.

CHANDRAKANTH R.PATEL, Advocate
Date:03-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client has filed a suit for Specific Performance against Sri. N. Sriram Reddy and others in O.S No.98/2021 in respect of an Agricultural Property more fully described in the schedule hereunder (Schedule Property) before the Hon'ble III Addl. Senior Civil Judge at Bengaluru Rural. The Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge at Bengaluru Rural has granted an **Interim Order dated 16-01-2021,** restraining the Defendant No.1 thereon (Sri. N. Sriram Reddy) from alienating to any person changing the nature and creating third party interest on the Suit Schedule Property.

The general public are hereby cautioned not to enter into any agreement to sell or sale deed in respect of Schedule Property with Sri. N. Sriram Reddy and Smt. Muneera Begum W/o. Late Mohammed Akramulla. Failing which, my client will take necessary action/initiate proper action for the disobedience of the **Interim Order dated 16-01-2021** at your cost consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Sy. No. 453 (new), old Sy. No. 46/P140, (Sy. No. 46), measuring 1 (ONE) acre of Kaggalipura Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:-

East by : Private Property
West by : Property belonging to Basappa
North by : Road
South by : Property belonging to Javaraiah

Address
Jayanth H. Poojary, Advocate
No. 107, 3rd Floor, 8th C Main, Opp. Jain Temple, 4th Block, Jayanagar (West) Bangalore-560011, Mob No: 9741190333.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED Khalandar @ Mohammed Musavir S/o Ameerjan, R/a Kodadhavadi, Doddaganjur Post, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-563125 have changed my name to Musaveer Pasha vide affidavit dt: 03.09.2025 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.G, Blr

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIJAYA Bai Lokaray w/o Deepak Lokaray, r/o: No 308, 6th CRS, Nrupathunga Nagar, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Blr–560078 Have changed my name as Vijaya Bai Khatokar. Vide affidavit on 01/09/2025.

TENDERS

THE PLANTATION CORPORATION OF KERALA LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking
Registered office : Kottayam-686 004)
Website: www.pcklimited.in Ph: 0481-2578301-04

Inviting Expression of Interest & Technical Bid For Operation and Management of The Plantation Valley Farm Resort, Adirappilly

Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd. (PCKL) invites Expression of Interest & Technical Bid from reputed and experienced parties for the operation & management of The Plantation Valley Farm Resort belonging to PCK Ltd. at Adirappilly. Last Date: **30.09.2025.** For more details:**https://etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.pcklimited.in**
(Sd/-) Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This caution notice is being addressed on behalf of Evolv Clothing Company Pvt Limited, having its registered office at Plot No. 21, 4th Floor, Industrial Estate, Perungudi, Chennai - 600 096, Tamil Nadu. The general public is hereby cautioned that certain unknown individuals and/or agencies have been trying to mislead the public by wrongfully claiming to be part of the Evolv Clothing brand and using fraudulent WhatsApp accounts bearing phone numbers +91 87934 79856, +91 86250 96756, and +91 82639 27603, as well as fraudulent Google Pay and PhonePe accounts registered with phone numbers +91 82639 27603 and +91 87934 79856.

The fraudster has created fake WhatsApp, Google Pay and Phone Pe accounts, deceiving customers into believing that clothes are sold by him under the brand name of Evolv. However, upon payment, the account is blocked by the fraudster, causing innocent customers to lose their money and not receive any goods in return. Please be advised that any person willingly corresponding with such individuals and agencies in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at their own risk, as to costs and consequences. We strongly recommend that no one should respond to such solicitations and Evolv Clothing Company Pvt Ltd will not accept any liability whatsoever for any loss that the general public may incur owing to transactions made with such unknown individuals and agencies making false claims.

In case you come across any such fraudulent activity, you may kindly contact us at enquiries@evolvclothing.com and ho.accts@evolvclothing.com so that appropriate action may be taken.

Evolv Clothing Company Pvt Limited,
Plot No. 21, 4th Floor, Industrial Estate, Perungudi, Chennai - 600 096, Tamil Nadu.

MSME- TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra- 282006 (U.P)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes

Data Analytics

Course Content: 1)What is data, 2) How data are sourced, 3) Statistics, 4) Data Cleaning & Transformation, 5) Python & SQL for Data, 6) Excel for Data Analysis, 7) Data Visualization (Using Excel & Power BI), 8) Story telling by the given data, 9) How to make impact full presentation?, 10) Live project session

For Registration

Date/ दिनांक : 08th - 19th Sep 2025
Time/ समय : 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees/ शुल्क : 5900/-(Inclusive of GST)
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga Ph: 08182-222943
Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)

IFT No. 14/2025-26 **Date: 01.09.2025**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (Two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 3054-4-337-1-10-200- MDR Maintenance in Shivamogga Tq (Indent No.24999) Amount put to tender is. **Rs.54.85 Lakhs** & EMD amount is **Rs. 1.097 lakhs**. Time allowed for completion of work is 03 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz.,http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section 2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **01-09-2025 to 08-09-2025** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **08-09-2025 at 17.00 PM**. The Technical bid will be opened on **09-09-2025 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **10-09-2025** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ./ಪಿ/ಸಂ.01–09/ಝೀಂಕಾರ್/2025–26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan
IFT No.15/2025-26, Dated:01.09.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one & two cover system through KPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikmagaluru District works as per KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 maximum tender amount is Rs.161.14 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.09 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 08-09-2025 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಲಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/514/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123, ದೂ.: 080–27722735,
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080–27722135, Web : www.nelamangala.mrc.gov.in,
Email : itstaff_ulb_nelamangala@yahoo.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂಶಾ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/26/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್‌ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 3 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2018–19ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ **ರೂ: 499.20 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ತಂತ್ರಾಶದಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/– ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/– ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/2621/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my clients Smt. SUNDRAMMA, Sri. M. PAPA REDDY & Smt. S.P. NAGALEELAVATHI, all Residents of Sompura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban Dist. have entered into JD Agreement dated: 30/11/2015 with Mr. YERRA REDDY. S (S.Y. Reddy) S/o. S. Rami Reddy, at Villa No.03, Lake View Golden Nest, Lakshmi Sagar Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560081 and the said JDA has been registered before the Sub-registrar Anekal as Document No. ANK-1-03834/2015-16 of Book-I, CD. No. ANKD 396. Apart from that on the very same day my clients have also executed GPA in favour of said person and the same was registered before the Sub-Registrar, Anekal as Document No. ANK-4-00386/2015-16 of Book-IV, CD. No. ANKD 396.

However, the above-named Mr. YERRA REDDY. S (S.Y. Reddy) being the builder, breaches the contract for which my clients without any option got issued legal notice on 14/08/2025 and cancelled the aforesaid JDA and GPA both dated: 30/11/2015.

In view of Cancellation of aforesaid JDA & GPA, the above-named Mr. YERRA REDDY. S (S.Y. Reddy) had no right or authority with respect schedule property and the contract has been duly cancelled/ terminated/ revoked as aforesaid.

THEREFORE, the public are hereby informed not to enter any transaction with the above-named Mr. YERRA REDDY. S (S.Y. Reddy). Inspite of this public notice any transactions made, such transactions are illegal and not binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

Agricultural Land bearing New Sy. No. 86/P17, (Old Sy. No. 86) measuring 1 (One) Acre, situated at Doddathimmasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban Dist. and bounded on:

East by : Land in Sy. No.92 belongs to A. Rajappa,
West by : Road,
North by : Land belongs to Muniyappa,
South by : Land belongs to Muni Reddy,

Date: 04/09/2025

Vivekananda Reddy, Advocate
No. 1135, 9th Cross Road, Sarathy Nagar, J.P Nagar, 8th Phase, 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560108.

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/various heads/2025-26/891 **Dt. 02-09-2025.**

Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 06 works comprising of approved Road and Building works under 2024-25 CM Special Grant, 2024-25 KKRDB and 2017-18 CMGVY Grant through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18298
2.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18596
3.RDPR/2025-26/IND11065
4.RDPR/2025-26/IND11063
5.RDPR/2025-26/IND11062
6.RDPR/2025-26/IND11064

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **16-09-2025 at 4.30** PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **02-09-2025 to 16-09-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **17-09-2025 at 17.30 PM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/425/KSMCA/2025-26

Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru
Website: www.tumkurcity.mrc.gov.in Phone No: 2278480, Fax: 2275106 e-mail : itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com Grievance: 0816-2272200, 2271200
No:TCC/HS/CR-4/2025-26 DATED: 01.09.2025

Short term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer , Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through e-Procurement portal For various works under various grants Eligibele Bidder can participate in the Tender. For more information go to website: www.kppp.gov.in .

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Scheduled calendar of events and other information are as follows:

1 Date of Queries of Tenders : 01-09-2025 to 08.09.2025. 2. Last Date for Submission of Tenders: 08-09-2025 at 4.30 Pm. 3. Date of Opening of Tenders : 09-09-2025 at 4.45 Am. Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakur City Corporation Tumakuru
DIPR/TUM/289/KSMCA/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 570005, ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಅ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/8/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 2383.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತದ ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರ ಡಾ। ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಭವನದ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **10.09.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.09.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರ** ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕನ್ಸಲೆನ್ಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ **0821–2420624** ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.mudamysore.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಬದಲಾಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತೆ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/903/ಎಸ್ಎಸ್ಸಿ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(North-East)	BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1572/2025-26 Dated: 01-09-2025	1	Rs. 22,15,437/- / Rs. 50,000/-	12-09-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	13-09-2025 After 3.00 PM
		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1571/2025-26 Dated: 01-09-2025	2	Rs. 78,42,042/- / Rs. 1,56,900/-	12-09-2025 Upto 3.00 PM	13-09-2025 After 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(South-2)	BWSSB/EE(S2)/PB/789/2025-26 Dated: 25-08-2025	1	Rs. 3,24,391/- / Rs. 8,200/-	19-09-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	22-09-2025 After 4.30 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/2615/2025-26

Government of Karnataka.
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, BIDAR
Bomgondeshwar Samudaya Bhavan (Gonda Bhavan), Near Gurudwara, Chickpet Road, Bidar- 585 401 Ph. No: 08482-229332, Fax: 08482-225262 , E-mail: ka.bidar.dudc@gmail.com

No: DUDC/INDIRACANTEEN/CR- /2025-25 Dated: 01-09-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sl. No	Name of work	Last date to submit the tender documents	Technical Bid Opening date
1	Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens for Urban Local Bodies of CMC Bidar and Town Panchayat Aurad (B) Bidar District in Karnataka State (DMA/2025-6/IND5255)	03-10-2025 upto 04.00 pm	04-10-2025 at 04.30 pm
	Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies of CMC Basavakalyan and and TMC Humnabad of Bidar District in Karnataka State (DMA/2025-6/IND5256)	16-09-2025 upto 04.00 pm	17-09-2025 at 04.30 pm
	Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteen in Urban Local Body of TMC Bhalki of Bidar District in Karnataka State (DMA/2025-6/IND5257)		

2) Estimated cost As per e-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per e-portal, 4) EMD amount As per e-portal, 5) Address for communication Project Director DUDC Bidar, DC Office Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : ka. bidar .dudc @ gmail .com 08482-229332, 6) Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/158/KSMC&A/2025-26

Project Director, DUDC Bidar.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara-571313

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO.15/2025-26/ DATED: 29-08-2025 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore.. Tender format as per **KW-4** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **SDMF** for **Chamarajanagara** Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 30-08-2025 to 09-09-2025 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/ queries on tender **Date: 08-09-2025 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 11-09-2025 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as bellows.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Contractor Eligibility
1	Improvement of Road And Bridge for Connecting Byranatha village To B.M Halli Village, Managalli Grama Panchayath at Hanuru Taluk INDENT: RDPR/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT/18080	294.00	246.71	370000.00	Class - II & above

For more details visit website: htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara (Ph: 08226-223019) during office hours.
AE Phone No: **8073339806**

NO: DIPR:CHANAGAR: 321: 2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Chamarajanagara

FROM THE ARCHIVES

How bail hearings take on the garb of a trial

The UAPA prohibits a judge from granting an individual bail if, on a perusal of the police report, the judge is of the opinion that there are 'reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is ... *prima facie* true'

Gautam Bhatia

On September 2, 2025, the Delhi High Court dismissed the bail pleas of the accused, Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa-ur-Rehman, Mohd. Saleem Khan, and Shadab Ahmed, in the 2020 Delhi riots case. Most of them had been in jail without bail for at least five years. The court rejected the claims of the accused that delays justified bail. In this article, dated April 7, 2022, Gautam Bhatia explains how in cases of UAPA, the bail hearing itself becomes the trial.

On March 24, a Sessions Court in Delhi denied bail to Umar Khalid as part of a set of cases that have commonly come to be known as "the Delhi riots cases". The case of the police was that Mr. Khalid was one of the conspirators behind the February 2020 violence in Delhi, which had claimed more than 50 lives. For this, Mr. Khalid, along with many others, was charge-sheeted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, and jailed pending trial. Mr. Khalid has been in jail for over 500 days. The trial has not yet begun.

Much has been written about the serious problems with the manner in which the Delhi Police has conducted its investigation, and prosecution of the Delhi riots: in particular, its selective targeting of activists who were involved with the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019, which was the alleged trigger for the violence, while refraining from prosecuting individuals who are on record delivering incendiary speeches. The denial of bail to Mr. Khalid highlights an equally serious problem: the broken nature of India's criminal justice system.

Umar Khalid speaks at a demonstration in 2020. PTI

Bail hearing becomes trial

First, consider these facts. Mr. Khalid's bail application was filed in July 2021. The order denying bail was passed eight months later, after multiple hours-long hearings, multiple adjournments, and three deferrals of the order itself. It is important to ask why an application for bail took so many hearings and eight months to decide: in criminal law, the purpose of bail is to ensure that an individual is not unjustly denied their liberty while the trial against them is still proceeding and their guilt has not yet been established. As such, in normal circumstances, courts are supposed to consider whether an accused is a flight risk, or is likely to tamper with evidence or intimidate witnesses. If neither of those dangers exist, there is no purpose in denying an individual their freedom before their guilt has been established in a court. This, in other words, is the real meaning of the hoary phrase 'innocent until proven guilty'.

This is where the notorious UAPA comes in. Shorn of legalese, the UAPA prohibits a judge from granting an individual bail if, on a perusal of the police diary or the police report, the judge is of the opinion that there are "reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is ... *prima facie* true." The effect of this, as the criminal legal scholar Abhinav Sekhri has pointed out, is that the UAPA introduces elements of the criminal trial into the question of bail. There are traces of this in the Indian Penal Code as well, for bail under serious non-UAPA offences. This hints at a larger problem with the criminal justice system, of which the UAPA is only the starkest example. Questions of guilt or innocence are meant to be determined at the end of a trial, after evidence has been sifted, witnesses examined and cross-examined, and arguments completed. The question of guilt or innocence at the stage of bail short-circuits that essential procedure.

But that is not the only problem with turning bail hearings into mini-trials. The problem is also that this mini-trial – to borrow a colourful phrase from the U.S. Supreme Court – licenses "one side ... to fight freestyle, while requiring the other to follow the Marquis of Queensberry Rules (i.e., the rules of professional boxing)". What the judge has before them is entirely one side of the case: the police version. In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, determine inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, present its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrate that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt. In a bail hearing, the defence can do none of that. The starting point of the bail hearing is the presumption that everything in the police report is true. Based on that presumption, all the two sides can then argue about is whether according to these "facts", the legal ingredients of the offence are fulfilled – or, in some rare cases, about whether the facts themselves are self-contradictory or flat-out implausible, so that no reliance can be placed on them even at the stage of bail. To use an analogy, it is like holding a debate between two sides, stopping it after one side finishes, allowing the other side to pose two or three questions but not say anything more, and then deciding whether the motion passes or falls.

Such a system might possibly be defensible in a situation where criminal justice was swift, efficient, and trustworthy. If, for example, criminal trials habitually concluded within six months, it might just be possible to argue that in terrorism cases, six months of pretrial incarceration is a painful but proportionate price to pay (in my opinion, it is still unjustifiable, but there is at least a case to be made). However, that is not the case in India: a UAPA trial takes years – often more than 10 years. In such a situation, the court's decision on bail, de facto, becomes the decision on the case: the denial of bail means that a person is likely to spend a decade or more behind bars, as the trial winds on. And given the UAPA's abysmally low conviction rates, the trial will likely end in acquittal.

This, thus, explains why bail hearings take so long, and are so convoluted (although there is still little excuse for the eight-month-long process in Mr. Khalid's case). Both the defence and the prosecution know that the outcome of the bail hearing is, for all practical effects, the outcome of the case itself. The result of the denial of bail is, functionally, the same as the result of a finding of guilt: a decade-plus in jail. But, as we have seen, while the denial of bail is effectively a finding of guilt, it has none of the safeguards that the criminal law puts into place before an actual finding of guilt. The accused is first gagged from contesting the police's version and is then condemned for not being able to disprove the police's case.

Rank injustice

In a notorious judgment in *National Investigation Agency v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* (2019), the Supreme Court made a bad situation even worse by forbidding the lower courts from scrutinising in depth even the police case. This leads to absurd situations like Mr. Khalid's bail order. A reading of the bail order shows that the court reproduces various allegations against Mr. Khalid – some of them hearsay, and therefore inadmissible during the trial, and some extremely implausible; dismisses the defence's challenges to them without any engagement; and then denies bail. Lawyers and legal scholars may disagree over whether the UAPA actually requires the courts to become stenographers for the prosecution, even under existing legal doctrine. The point, however, is that for all the reasons we have discussed above, the result is rank injustice.

Reforming the criminal justice system is the task of many years. In the immediate future, however, it is at least possible to curtail the manner in which the UAPA plays havoc with the lives of so many individuals. Striking down or reading down its bail prohibitions and subjecting the police case to stricter scrutiny during bail hearings would be a start. It remains to be seen whether the judiciary has the will and the inclination to do so.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Welcome back! And congratulations. You must be in the seventh heaven after winning the lottery."

"Seventh heaven! I didn't know there were so many heavens."

"Nobody really knows how many heavens there are, but when you say that somebody is in the seventh heaven, it means he/she is extremely happy."

"I see. So, can I say, when I got a hundred in the test I was in the seventh heaven?"

"You certainly can. When Uma returned from the States she was in the seventh heaven."

"That's surprising. Most Indians are in the seventh heaven when they go to the States. Not when they return from it."

"Unfortunately, that is very true."

"When my cousin Suresh got married seven years ago he was in the seventh heaven."

"Now that he's been married for seven years, let's hope he doesn't get the seven year itch."

"An itch that lasts for seven years! What kind of itch is that?"

"The itch doesn't last for seven years. It starts after the seventh year."

"What does? The itch?"

"That's right. And mind you, this is no ordinary itch. It is the boredom that many married couples feel after seven years of marriage. And they get rid of this itch by...."

"....by having an affair with someone. I suppose."

"Right again."

"So the seven year itch is the desire that married couples get to have an affair with someone...."

"....after seven years of marriage."

"I see. But tell me, does this itch start only during the seventh year?"

"Not necessarily. In some cases, the seven year itch starts much earlier."

"Oh! Can I say my friend John has the seven year itch?"

"You certainly can. I don't think anyone in my family has ever had the seven year itch."

"How would you know? No one is going to admit that he/she has the seven year itch."

"That's true. Not even you yourself!"

"Have you seen his new apartment?"

"Yes, I have. It's cheerless, isn't it?"

"Cheerless? Is cheerless the opposite of cheerful?"

"When you refer to something as being 'cheerless', it means it is 'gloomy and depressing'. For example, I can say, it was a damp and cheerless morning."

"Sounds like you visited Madras recently. How about this example? Arun lives in a bare, cheerless apartment."

"Sounds good to me. I am sure Arun isn't happy living there."

"He certainly isn't in the seventh heaven."

Published in The Hindu on December 23, 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on nation states and the people who led and shaped them

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Before becoming a statesman, A was perhaps most well known for leading Ottoman forces to victory at the Battle of Gallipoli in 1915. After the war, A was instrumental in abolishing the Ottoman sultanate in 1922 and founding the Turkish republic in 1923. Name A.

QUESTION 2

B was Kenya's Prime Minister from 1963-1964 and its first President in 1964-1978, and a man credited with establishing Kenya as an independent state. While his government was accused of being corrupt and neocolonialist, he's also remembered for his messages of reconciliation. Name B.

QUESTION 3

C was a politician and revolutionary known for his pan-Africanist agenda and for leading Ghana to independence from Britain in 1957. A violent coup in 1966 overthrew his government and undid his humanitarian efforts. Name C.

QUESTION 4

Nguyễn Sinh Cung, sometimes colloquially addressed as Uncle Ho, is credited with founding the Democratic Republic of D in 1945. He was also a founding member of the French Communist Party in 1920. Name D.

QUESTION 5

Camillo Benso di Cavour, Victor Emmanuel II, Giuseppe Mazzini, and E are together considered the "fathers of the fatherland" of Italy. E also essayed a central role in the reconstitution of Uruguay, when he was in South America in exile. Many historians consider him Italy's greatest national hero. Name E.

Visual question:
Name this statesman known as "El Libertador" for leading Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela to independence. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. After a nearly yearlong journey, this NASA spacecraft landed on Mars in 1976. **Ans: Viking 2**
2. This American architect has been called a "father of skyscrapers". **Ans: Louis Sullivan**
3. This Indian author is known for her books *The Inheritance of Loss* and *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard.* **Ans: Kiran Desai**
4. This country became independent from the United Kingdom in 1971. **Ans: Qatar**
5. This American poet and painter first attracted attention for his unconventional punctuation and phrasing. **Ans: E.E. Cummings**
Visual: Name this American director and the name of his 1946 film. **Ans: Frank Capra; *It's a Wonderful Life***
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| Erfanally Oosmany| Neil Lall| Sukdev Shet

Word of the day

Sidereal:
of or relating to the stars or constellations; (of divisions of time) determined by daily motion of the stars

Usage: *It's that time of the sidereal year where we take stock of what's been going on during the last orbit of Earth around the Sun.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/siderealexp

International Phonetic Alphabet: /saɪˈdɪə.ɹi.əl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HC notice to ED on plea filed by MLA Veerendra's wife challenging his arrest

It was contended that the grounds of arrest mentioned in the arrest memo were vague, generic, and formulaic, contrary to the requirements of law as laid down by the apex court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a petition questioning the legality of the arrest of K.C. Veerendra, MLA for Chitradurga, in connection with a money laundering case in connection with the alleged illegal online and offline betting.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the order on a petition filed by R.D. Chaithra, wife of Mr. Veerendra. The MLA was arrested at Gangtok in Sikkim on August 23, when he was in Sikkim along with his associates on a business trip to lease a casino, and was later produced before a magistrate court here.

Criminal cases booked

It has been alleged in the petition that some of the criminal cases registered way back in 2015, 2016 and 2022, which were among the First Information Reports registered by the State police in connection with instances of illegal betting that were relied upon by the ED, among other cases, were not in existence at present.

The ED, it had been alleged in the petition, was illegally usurping the powers vested with the State police and was encroaching upon the territory of the State police for manufacturing and investigating an offence, which was directly in conflict with the federal structure and constitutional scheme. Also, it had been contended that the grounds of arrest mentioned in the arrest memo were vague, generic, and formulaic, contrary to the requirements of law as laid down by the apex court.

Pointing out that three of the criminal cases cited by the ED had been closed as per the law, it had been claimed in the petition that not only had the ED failed to obtain the status of these three criminal cases, but had also gone ahead with portraying Mr. Veerendra as a habitual offender in illegal gambling cases.

₹12 crore seized

The ED had seized ₹12 crore cash (including about ₹1 crore worth foreign currency), gold jewellery worth ₹6 crore, and silver weighing about 10 kg, along with four vehicles during searches conducted on August 22 at multiple locations in various States.

Premises linked to MLA, associates raided in Bengaluru, Challakere

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) raided premises linked to Chitradurga Congress MLA K.C. Veerendra and his associates in Bengaluru and Challakere on Tuesday.

The ED has claimed that just one of the gateways, collected from the betting apps run by Mr. Veerendra was more than ₹2,000 crore in a short span of time, indicating the extent of the operation.

The ED had on August 28 raided 31 premises linked to Mr. Veerendra and his associates in Challakere, Bengaluru, Panaji, Gangtok, Jodhpur, Hubballi and Mumbai, in a case related to illegal online betting. Mr. Veerendra was arrested from Gangtok, Sikkim and is in ED custody.

Mr. Veerendra has been running several online betting sites in the name of

K.C. Veerendra

King567, Raja567, Lion567, among others, the ED said. "It has also been revealed that several gateways have been used for routing payments collected through these websites. The money collected from these websites being operated by Mr. Veerendra and his associates through a single gateway alone is more than ₹2,000 crore in a short span of time. It has been revealed that K. C. Thippeswamy, Mr. Veerendra's brother, was operating several Dubai-based entities related to the call centre services and gaming business of Mr. Veerendra," the ED said.

The ED had on August 28 raided 31 premises linked to Mr. Veerendra and his associates; the MLA was arrested from Gangtok, Sikkim

"During the course of the investigation and during raids on Tuesday, the ED seized five high-end vehicles. Further, ₹55 crore in various accounts has been frozen. This includes ₹40.69 crore in nine bank accounts and one Demat account of Mr. Veerendra, and ₹14.46 crore in 262 mule accounts recovered from one of the accused gateways through which money collected by multiple gaming websites being operated by Mr. Veerendra and his associates were being routed," the ED said.

"Investigation revealed that the said mule accounts are provided by various middlemen to the operators of these gaming websites, in this case Pruthvi N. Raj, nephew of Mr. Veerendra, who in turn uses the same to collect the funds received from various players. These transactions include layering the said money deposits of players through escrow accounts of gateways and then making settlement in mule accounts which are controlled by the gaming site owners. These funds are further siphoned off in various ways, including through hawala transactions. It has also been revealed that Mr. Veerendra and his associates in Dubai are operating several gaming websites by using various gateways and fintech service providers for layering of funds and for masking their illicit activities as genuine e-commerce businesses," the ED said in a statement on Wednesday.

Employee killed in freak accident at cake factory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old employee was killed in a freak accident while he was carrying a biscuit tray in a hydraulic lift on the factory premises in Just Bake Bindu Recipe Pvt. Ltd., in Bettahalasuru Village in Chikkajala police station limits on Tuesday.

Case registered

Based on the complaint lodged by the relative of the deceased, Bhopendra Choudhary, the police have registered an FIR against the owner of Just Bake Bindu Recipes Pvt Ltd, hydraulic lift operator, Lakshmi B.K., and factory in-charge Rajeshekar and others under BNS Section 106 (causing death by negligence).

According to the FIR, Bhopendra had been working at the factory as a helper for two months. Mukesh, his relative and the complainant has been working in the factory for nine years as a cake maker.

On Tuesday, around 12.35 a.m., Bhopendra was going to the second floor from the ground floor on the hydraulic lift carrying biscuits. He bent down and hit his head against the wall on the second floor, and died instantly. The other workers rushed to his help and brought him down, but it was too late.

Mukesh alleged that Bhopendra was not provided any safety equipment and died due to negligence.

Accused summoned

The police have issued notice to the accused to appear before them for questioning while awaiting post-mortem report for further investigation.

SIT files B Report in gang rape case against Munirathna, says charge false

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a respite to BJP MLA Munirathna, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe his alleged crimes has filed a B report in a case where the MLA was accused of gang rape, saying allegations against the MLA in this case were false.

In this case, a 40-year-old woman, in her complaint to the RMC Yard Police on May 20, had accused Munirathna of orchestrating a gang-rape through his associates, and injecting her with a deadly virus.

Munirathna

The woman alleged she was hospitalised in January 2025 and discovered that she had contracted a virus. Depressed at what had happened to her, she popped pills on May 19 and fell ill, the FIR noted.

The MLA claims this had exposed a conspiracy against him

However, the investigation found no contact between the complainant and the MLA and found no evidence to substantiate the allegations made, leading the police to file a B report in the case.

Responding to the development, Mr. Munirathna claimed this had exposed a conspiracy against him. "After Dr. C.N. Manjunath won from Bangalore Rural in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, cases were filed against me. The B report shows that truth has prevailed. Making women file false complaints must stop," he said.

However, the SIT has already filed a charge sheet against him in another rape case, registered at Kaggalipura, the first case registered against the MLA, leading to the formation of the SIT. Yet another charge sheet has also been filed against him in a case related to hurling castiest abuses at a man belonging to the Scheduled Caste.

NLSIU's convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, will hold its 33rd annual convocation on Sunday. The ceremony will be presided over by Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The chief guest, T.N. Ninan, the former editor and chairperson of Business Standard, will deliver the convocation address.

The event will take place at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University Auditorium at 11 a.m.

Graduation day at ACS college

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ACS College of Engineering celebrated its 13th Graduation Day on Tuesday at the ACS Convention Centre on the RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital campus.

A total of 270 students from undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programmes received their degrees in the presence of distinguished guests, faculty, and families.

Chairman A.C. Shanmugam presided over the programme along with president A.C.S. Arun Kumar, Lalitha Lakshmi, S. Vijayanand, and other dignitaries.

Vinod Kumar, director, INSPACe Promotion Directorate, Department of Space, was the chief guest, while actress Amrutha Prem was the guest of honour.

Mr. Shanmugam urged graduates to lead with integrity and societal responsibility, while Vinod Kumar encouraged them to dream big.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 04	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:28
RISE 16:01	SET 02:42
FRIDAY, SEP. 05	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:28
RISE 16:48	SET 03:39
SATURDAY, SEP. 06	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:27
RISE 17:33	SET 04:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Three held in Hoskote for smuggling red sanders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hoskote police on Wednesday busted an interstate red sanders smuggling racket and arrested three persons. The police recovered 1,093 kg of dark red wood worth ₹25 lakh from them.

The accused, identified as Ajaz Shariff, 47, Fayaz Shariff, 47, and Sadiq Khan, 34, were arrested while packing the goods at a transport godown in Kattigenahalli in Hoskote.

The accused reportedly confessed that they source the wood from their contacts in Andhra Pradesh, and transport it in a vehicle to the city. Later, they pack the wood neatly in plastic bags and wrap them in tape to avoid detection.

The accused had planned to send the consignment through private transport to their contact in Haryana, the police said.

Bengaluru district Superintendent of Police, C. K. Baba, said that the accused were habitual offenders involved in similar cases in Andhra Pradesh.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)
Phone: 0866-2527110, Email:recruitment@apcrda.org

Rc.No.MAU61-OPCS0CNTE(APPT)/20/2025-HR, Dt.02.09.2025

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No.18/2025

Notification is hereby issued for filling up certain posts in APCRDA, Vijayawada on contract basis. Online application is available in the APCRDA website in careers tab and can be submitted from dt.04.09.2025 to dt. 18.09.2025. For further details, please visit **https://crda.ap.gov.in**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1 (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/PR/203/2025-26 Date: 03.09.2025

CORRIGENDUM - 2

Sub: Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: 1. This office Tender Notification No. DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/08/2025-26, Dated: 30.07.2025.
2. Corrigendum - 1 No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/PR/183/2025-26, Dated: 18.08.2025.

******

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Technical reason. The change in the calendar of events is as shown in below table.

Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl No		As per tender notification	Extended dates please read as
1	Last date of Receipt of tender	On 15.09.2025 up to 16:00 hrs.	On 20.09.2025 up to 16:00 hrs.
2	Opening of Technical Bid	On 16.09.2025 after 16:30 hrs.	On 22.09.2025 after 10:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/2633/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
TIDCO
No.19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008
Phone-+91-044-28554479,28554480 | Fax:+91-044-28553729
E-mail: hr@tidco.com Website: https://tidco.com/ https://careers.tidco.com

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Notification No.TIDCO/HR/Recruitment/2025-3 **Dated: 04.09.2025**

Applications are invited for the following posts only through online mode from 05.09.2025 at 10.00 am to 19.09.2025 upto 5.00 pm from the eligible candidates who wish to join the services in Tamilnadu Research Parks Foundation, Coimbatore & Madurai, an initiative of TIDCO.

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of vacancy	Compensation	Location	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Research Advisor	One (1)	Net CTC is Rs.60,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- per month (Negotiable - Depending on experience and qualification. TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	Coimbatore	On Contract basis
2.	Admin/ Accounts Manager	One (1)	Net CTC is Rs.50,000/- per month (Negotiable - Depending on experience and qualification. TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	Madurai	On Contract basis

For the detailed notification, qualification, experience, selection process, online application and other details, please visit our official website **https://tidco.com / https://careers.tidco.com.**

DIPR/ 1023 / DIS/2025

MANAGING DIRECTOR, TIDCO

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whomsoever it may concern

The general public is hereby informed and notified that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned commercial property having 11,000 sq. ft of super built-up area along with 4,650 of undivided share in the land upon which the building stands, situated in **Konena Agrahara Village, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru**, more fully described in and referred to as the "Schedule Property" below from its current owner viz., **Smt. A. S. Veena**, wife of Srinivas Raju, aged about 54 years, residing at Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 076.

If any person has any objection, claim, interest, dispute in respect of the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of 2nd & 3rd Floor in the commercial complex, bearing Municipal Number 41, situated at Konena Agrahara Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, having 11,000 sq. ft of super built-up area and an undivided share of 4650 sq. ft in the land upon which the property stands, 8 reserved car parking spaces and proportionate share in the common areas, with the following boundaries: East by : Private Property; West by :- Private Property; North by: Road and Private Property; and South by: Bangalore-Varthur Main Road, Airport Road.

Sd/- **Law Chambers of Lakshmi Menon**
No. 33, First Floor, Crescent Road,
High Grounds, Bengaluru 560 001.
Ph : 080-22204412
Bengaluru, dated 03.09.2025

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT ANEKAL BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT
P AND SC No. 06/2025

BETWEEN:
MR. N.R. MADHAVA PRASAD REDDY, S/o N. Rajappa @ Neraluru Rajappa, Aged about 56 years, Residing at, #663, DR. N. Rajappa Complex, 14th Cross, Sarjapura, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District - 562 125:.
.....PETITIONER

AND
Nil: ....RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner is the only son of one **N. Rajappa @ Neraluru Rajappa S/o Veera Reddy. The said N. Rajappa @ Neraluru Rajappa died on 12.10.2004.** The petitioner has instituted the above petition for grant of succession/legal heir certificate, any interested person may to appear in this court, in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the petition. **On 23.10.2025 at 11.00 AM** and answer the claim and further you are hereby directed to file statement of your defense in respect to succession/legal heir certificate.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this date **3rd day of September 2025.**

By Order Of Court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge & JMFC Court
Anekal
Advocate for petitioner
Mallikarjuna.B.K, Advocate,
1st Floor, Mahadeshwara complex,
Attibele Road, Anekal Town,
Bangalore Urban District - 562 106.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

SECOND CORRIGENDUM

e-tender Notice No.:- 2025-27-NAC ICF toilet upgrad Date :02.09.2025 1. e-tender Notice No.: 2025-27-NAC ICF toilet upgrad dated: 05.08.2025 **2. Date of Opening of Tender: Tender opening date extended** from 03.09.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. **to 10.09.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. 4. Website particular where complete details of E tender can be seen and participated: www.ireps.gov.in**

1115-AJ/25

Chief workshop manager
Carriage Workshop,
N.W.R., Jodhpur

PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka has accorded Environmental Clearance for the project for the Proposed Residential Development by **M/s. Newgen Developers** at **Plot No. R-04-Part C** and **R-04-Part C1,** Hardware sector, Hitech Defense & Aerospace Park, Bagalur and Hoovinayakanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District vide **EC No: EC25B3813KA5597391N** and **File No.: SEIAA 82 CON 2025 dated 02.09.2025** under the provision of EIA Notification, **14th September 2006.**

Copy of the Clearance Letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at website of the PARIVESH portal.

(Authorized Signatory)
Mr. R.S. Vinay Kumar Reddy

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our Client, Mrs. Mira Angelina Cummins, W/o Late Garry Cummins, is the lawful owner and in possession of the immovable Property morefully described in the Schedule hereunder. Our client has lost in transit the (i) Original Sale Deed dt: 13/12/1950, regd. As Document No.1787/1950-51, Book No.I, Vol. No.749, Pages 35 to 38, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Civil & Military Station, Bangalore and (ii) Original General Power of Attorney dt: 23/05/1963, registered as Document No.31, Book No.IV, Volume 68, Pages 236 to 238, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Civil Station Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. Our client has lodged e-Lost Report No.1779822/2025 with Bangalore City Police, Karnataka State on 01/09/2025 in this regard. The general public are hereby notified that in the event any person/s find the above said original documents, the same may be handed over to undersigned forthwith.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Municipal No. 50 (Old No. 4/A and later No. 14), BBMP E-PID No. 5156959377, (earlier BBMP PID No.76-23-50), measuring 25,824 square feet along with building constructed thereon situated at Lavelle Road, Shantala Nagara, BBMP Ward No. 111, Bengaluru-560001 and the entire property is bounded on its.

East by	Municipal Drain and Walkers Property;
West by	Lavelle Road;
North by	Property bearing No. 15, Lavelle Road;
South by	Property bearing No. 12, Lavelle Road;

R PURSHOTAM
Advocate& Legal Consultant
M/s RPM Associates
#7, I Floor, Jayashree Building, Yamunabai Road, Madhavnagar, Bangalore - 560001, Ph:9980200300.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Tender Notice. CPM/ELECT/25-26/15 (Normal Tender) (Two Packet) Date: 01.09.2025

Name of Work : "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 01 nos 132 KV TSS at Belpahar, 02 nos SP at (DAO & JSG), 05 nos SSP at (KRL, JMG, HGR, LJKR, BRJN) in connection with 2x25 KV upgradation between Kotarlia to Jharsuguda section in Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway."

Tender Value : ₹48,30,43,918.91/- (Rupees Forty-Eight Crore Thirty Lakh Forty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen and Ninety-One Paise). **EMD : ₹25,65,200.00/-** (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh Sixty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Only). **Completion Period of Work : 18.**

Date & Time of Tender Closing : Up to **15:00** Hours on **25.09.2025**.

Date & Time of Tender Opening : 15:30 Hrs. on **25.09.2025**.

For further details related to tender document eligibility criteria and complete details for the above work please contact office of the Chief Project Manager/Elect/S.E.C.R, Old Construction Building, Beside Office of G.M. Building, Bilaspur, Pin: 495004 or refer on our website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. CEE/Project/ML
CPR/10/291 **S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**

South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Srinivas.M S/o.Munikrishnappa, Aged about 36 years, residing at No.136, 7th Cross, Jakkasandra Extension, Koramangala, Bangalore -560034, has LOST THE ORIGINAL REGISTERED GIFT DEED DATED 24.02.2012, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.BMH-1-09969/2011-12 OF BOOK-1, STORED IN CD NO.BMHD544, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR, BOMMANAHALLI, BANGALORE, LOST AT NEAR JAKKASANDRA LAYOUT BUS STOP ON 10.06.2025, BETWEEN 10:00AM TO 05:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 03.09.2025 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1782881/2025, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: #782/11, Ground Floor, 17th 'B' main Road 60th Cross, Near Lakshman Rao Skin Clinic, 5th Block, Bhasyam Circle, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line:** 080-48520073

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Dharmasthala case: Court extends custody of complainant till Sept. 6

SIT issues notices to Uday Jain, Mallik Jain and Dhiraj Kella in connection with Soujanya case

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

A local magistrate court in Belthangady granted the custody of the 45-year-old complainant in the Dharmasthala mass burials case to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) till September 6.

On the application by SIT about production of the complainant on Wednesday, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC, H. Vijayendra, granted further custody of the former sanitation worker to the SIT, which is probing the case. The witness protection granted to the complainant by the committee headed by Principal District and Sessions Judge, Dakshina Kannada, Basavaraj, for a period of 60 days, expires on September 8. The jurisdictional Deputy Superintendent of Police is yet to submit a report about the threat perception to the complainant and his arrest by SIT for perjury on August 23, before the committee can make a decision on the continuation of protection.

Meanwhile, as part of an inquiry into the recent petition by a Mandya-based woman to the SIT that she had seen a woman similar to Soujanya being taken away by a group of people on the day she was raped and murdered in October 2012, the SIT has issued notices to Uday Jain, Mallik Jain and Dhiraj Kella. Mr. Uday Jain appeared before the SIT on Wednesday.

Rajendra Ajri (fourth from left) leads a group of residents of Dharmasthala on Wednesday in seeking an SIT probe into the alleged involvement of the complainant's advocates in the conspiracy to defame the Manjunatheshwara temple. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

These three persons, whom Soujanya's parents had accused of involvement in the murder, were subjected to brain mapping and polygraph tests, and the CBI court had then accepted the report of the Investigation Officer in March 2015 that these three were not needed for further investigation of the case.

In another development, two Dharmasthala residents, Rajendra Ajiri and Srinivas, have lodged a complaint asking the SIT to question Supreme Court advocate K.V. Dhananjaya and fellow advocates Ojasvi Gowda, S.K. Dheeraj, Sachin Deshpande, Y.H. Divin and Manjunath for their alleged involvement in the conspiracy to defame Manjunatheshwara temple in Dharmasthala.

They said that the perusal of the complainant's statement in the case reveals that he had provided evidence and documents related to his complaint to Mr. Dhananjaya.

Mr. Gowda and other advocates have issued press releases from the start of the SIT investigation, they poined out.

BJP lodges complaint

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP has filed a complaint with the Bengaluru police against objectionable content on Facebook regarding its recently held Dharmasthala *chalo*, seeking an NIA probe into the alleged "smear campaign" against the pilgrimage site.

A delegation of BJP leaders, led by former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, lodged a complaint in the Upparpet Police Station.

The complaint alleges that the objectionable social media post shows BJP leaders in a poor light with respect to the Soujanya murder case. Mr. Narayan clarified that there has been no compromise by the party with respect to the probe pertaining to the case.

Reservation roster faces criticism for 'favouring general category'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The reservation roster, announced by the State government on Wednesday after restrictions on direct recruitment to public employment were removed, has come under criticism with accusations that the general category has been favoured at the cost of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

After over six months, the government has again kick-started the recruitment process, which had been stalled until a decision on internal reservation was made.

The State government modified the recommendation of the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission on internal reservation, and implemented a three-category internal reservation matrix, following which the recruitment process commenced.

As per the new roster, reservations of 6% for SC Left (Madiga), 6% for SC Right (Holeya), and 5% for the "touchable" castes of Lambani, Bhovi, Korama, and Koracha, along with nomadic and semi-nomadic castes, have been provided within the larger 17% reservation.

"The roster accommodates the general category at the cost of SC/ ST communities. In the first eight roster points, the general category has been given four points. The roster points for ST and SC Right have been moved down in the order. It has not accommodated the OBC reservation properly. Roster points have not been shown for physically challenged people and women," Karnataka State SC/ ST Government Employees Association president D. Chandrashekaraiah alleged.

"The confusion over how th nearly 4.75 lakh population of Adi Dravida, Adi Karnataka and Adi Andhra would be divided between Dalit Left and Dalit Right groups has not been cleared," he added.

"The new roster violates the guidelines and is against the roster announced in 2022. Despite these confusions, the government has started the recruitment process," he said.

The association is expected to petition the government against the roaster system, Mr. Chandrashekaraiah said.

Nomadic castes to continue stir

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Unrelenting in their demand for a separate 1% reservation within the 17% reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) as recommended by the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission, people from nomadic and semi-nomadic communities gathered here seeking that the government revisit the earlier Cabinet decision to club them with "touchable castes". On Wednesday, they announced that their protest will continue indefinitely at the Freedom Park till their demands are met.

Seeking priority in reservation for 59 microscopic communities, including nomadic and semi-nomadic castes, which have been identified as the most backward castes among the SCs by the commission, the Federation for Social Justice for SCs said, "We believe the government has alienated the microscopic communities by bringing them together with the relatively well-off communities of Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha."

It said that a Special Component Plan should be made for these communities in the budget, and 1 % of the total allocation to the SCs should be set aside for the development of nomadic and semi-nomadic castes. Seeking a separate development corporation for the nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, it stated that the Korama and Koracha should not be included in the corporation. Threatening to continue their protest indefinitely until their demands are met, they have announced Belagavi *chalo* during the Winter Session of the State legislature.

Members of the 'Alemari' and 'Are Alemari' communities staing a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

R.V. Deshpande draws flak over reply to journalist's question on childbirth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Veteran Congress leader and nine-time MLA R.V. Deshpande found himself in the middle of a controversy as his "insensitive and mischievous" reply to a woman television journalist, who drew his attention to the problems faced by pregnant women due to the delay in setting up a speciality hospital in his Assembly constituency, has drawn flak from various quarters.

Replying to a woman editor of a private Kannada TV channel during a public interaction over the lack of medical facilities in Joida of Uttara Kannada district, Mr. Deshpande had said, "If you have to deliver, I will get it done in Haliyal (neighbouring area)."

Lack of super speciality hospital in Uttara Kannada has led to a sustained campaign in the region.

In a statement, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra observed that Mr. Deshpande's sexist remarks did not befit his age, experience and dignity. "Mr. Deshpande's remarks, which were made in a tone that insults women, cannot be accepted by civil society. Let him withdraw his remarks and tender an apology to women," Mr. Vijayendra said. BJP State Women Morcha president C. Manjula said that the morcha would hold a protest in Uttara Kannada district on Thursday.

R.V. Deshpande FILE PHOTO

Karnataka Union of Working Journalists demands that R.V. Deshpande tender an apology; BJP State Women Morcha to hold a protest in UK dist. today

The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) has demanded that Mr. Deshpande apologise to the woman journalist over his behaviour. "Mr. Deshpande, who has used a sensitive issue to poke fun, should apologise," said a social media post by the KUWJ, which also tagged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Deshpande, who has served in the Cabinets of several Chief Ministers and handled various portfolios, including Industries and Revenue, is presently working as chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission, which has the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Cabinet likely to discuss UKP-III phase today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet meeting, scheduled for Thursday, is likely to discuss the compensation to be provided for the acquisition of lands for the Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Phase III, which involves increasing the height of the Almatti Dam.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, on Wednesday chaired a meeting with Ministers and senior officials. He said that the previous BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai had fixed a compensation of ₹24 lakh per acre for irrigated land and ₹20 lakh for dry land. However, farmers had not agreed to the amount.

The Cabinet would discuss the compensation, land acquisition, rehabilitation, and reconstruction issues on Thursday, Mr. Shivakumar said.

The court had given a ruling to provide more compensation. However, the Cabinet had decided against providing more compensation. A decision would be taken after consulting leaders of all parties, including farmers and MLAs, he said.

He said the Union Water Resources Minister had also been requested to convene a meeting to expedite the land acquisition process.

To complete the project, the government needs ₹2 lakh crore to acquire 1.33 lakh acres.

CM promises basic facilities for pilgrims at Anjanadri Hill in Koppal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With increased number of pilgrims visiting the Anjanadri Betta/temple, located on the banks of the Tungabhadra river in Koppal district, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised to provide basic facilities, including accommodation, at the site.

Mr. Siddaramaiah on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting here with Tourism Minister H.K. Patil and senior officials, and said that lakhs of devotees have been visiting the temple round the year, but the site has no dormitory facilities and senior citizens have been finding it difficult to climb the nearly 600 steps to reach the temple.

The Chief Minister said that community halls and other tourist facilities need to be developed in the area. Though ₹200 crore was earmarked for taking up works in two phases, he said that only ₹10 crore has been released so far.

He said that additional grants will be provided from the Finance Department.

The Chief Minister said that the ropeway to the hill and 10 other tourist places will be developed on public-private partnership model.

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023.
Tel.: 080-2955 7021, e-mail : pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/BASC/01/2025-BS Date:02.09.2025

Invitation For Tenders Through e-Procurement

Tenders (Two Covers) are invited for Supply of HIV Kits with Dot Immuno Assay Principle under e-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inLast date for submission of tenders : **24.09.2025 upto 5.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society

DIPR/CP/JA/2612/2025-26

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Chennai - 600 032.

No. 01/DIRECTOR (LABS)/TNPCB/2025
Appointment to the Post of Director (Labs), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

Applications are invited from the eligible Indian Nationals for appointment either by deputation or by direct recruitment to the post of Director (Labs), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Chennai.

The Notification along with the details of the application format are available on the website of TNPCB at **www.tnpcb.gov.in**

Eligible candidates are requested to send their applications on or before **30.09.2025** at **5.00 PM** to the following address:

The Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.

Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

DIPR/ 1020 /DISPLAY/2025

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No: CMC/ HPT/ENG/15TH FINANCE/2025-26
Dated:30.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

15th Finance-2024-25 Fund finance tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Class-1 Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: 15.09.2025 TIME: 5.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 16.09.2025. TIME: 5:10 PM. 3) OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.(1) INDENTNo. **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 48065** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 56.00 Lakh, any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

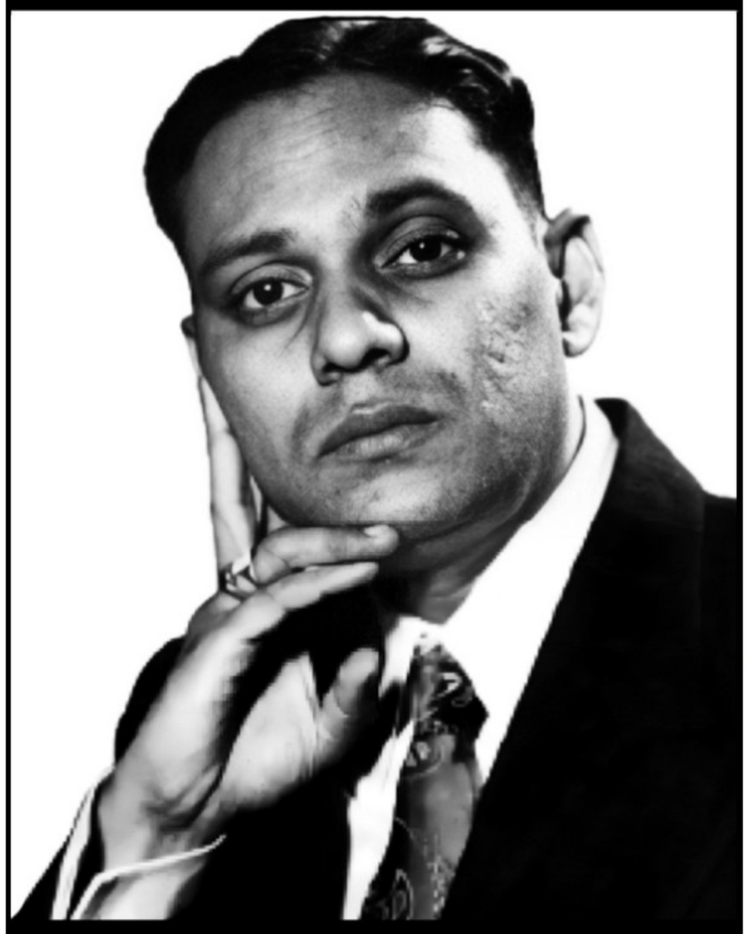
Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete
Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete

DIPR/Vijayanagar/20245-26/KSMCA/RO No/231

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRTY NINTH ANNIVERSARY



P S RAMAKRISHNA RAO
Bharani & Family
Tel: 044-2365 0971, 98408 80985

DEATH

KALLIDAI SRI KGS Subramanian Retd DOT attained sadgati on 31.08.25. Dasasthu on 08.09.25. Mob. 9445630312

SAD DEMISE

With deep sadness we would inform you the passing away of
Smt. LAKSHMAMMA
W/o late R Panduranga
on 3.9.2025 at 3.00 pm
Her mortal remains will be brought to the residence [Rajajinagar]
on Friday 5.09.2025 morning at 5.00 am
Her last right will be performed
on Friday 5.09.2025 at 12.30 noon
in **Harishchandra Ghat**

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Packaging of sugar in jute bags: HC declines to interfere with policy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "a judge, based on inputs, cannot assume the role of a supreme adviser to the administration of policies governing innumerable activities of the State", the High Court of Karnataka has declined to examine the issue on whether the presence of jute batching oil in jute bags, used for packing sugar, leads to any serious health hazard, as well as the correctness of the policy decision to use jute bags.

The court stated that it is the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), operating under the provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, and the experts who will examine the claim regarding the alleged presence of carcinogenic material in jute batching oil.

Not arbitrary

Also, the High Court said that making sugar industries compulsorily use 20% jute bags for packing sugar cannot be termed as arbitrary when the apex court, several years ago, had upheld the legality of this policy when the sugar industry was mandated to use 100% jute bags for packing sugar.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by the South Indian Sugar Mills Association-Karnataka, Bengaluru, and the Indian Sugar Mills Association, New Delhi.

The associations had questioned the notifications issued by the Ministry of Textiles under the 1987 Act, which mandated the use of 20% jute bags for packing sugar.

Pointing out that it is for the first time that the petitioners have claimed before the court about certain reports with regard to the alleged presence of carcinogenic material in jute batching oil, the High Court said that it is not inclined to examine these reports as they have to be looked into by the SAC, which meets annually to decide on the use of jute bags.

Justice Nagaprasanna said that "the jute batching oil, after its usage, is again covered by another thin layer to block perforation and pilferage of sugar or dropping out of sugar, causing moisture of sugar owing to its hygroscopic nature. Since this has been in usage, all of which can be analysed for the ensuing year by the SAC".

"By taking oath of office as a judge, an ordinary man turns himself into a man with magic wand and qualifies himself to be an unquestionable authority to advise on policies is inconceivable. It is further trite that the court would not sit in the armchair of those experts who have promulgated such policies and overrule them...," the High Court observed while declining to accept that the policy on usage of jute bags effected the right of sugar industry to carry on their trade.

Kavitha quits as MLC, leaves primary membership of BRS

KCR was forced to suspend her from party due to pressure from T. Harish Rao, J. Santosh Kumar, she says; quit only to prove integrity and there is a conspiracy to disintegrate her family, she adds

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

A day after the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leadership suspended K. Kavitha from the party, she decided to resign as an MLC by sending a letter to the Legislative Council Chairman. She also announced that she was quitting from primary membership of the party.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Ms. Kavitha said she would obey the party's decision but said it was due to pressure from party leaders T. Harish Rao and J. Santosh Kumar that party supremo and her father K. Chandrasekhar Rao was forced to take the harsh decision against her.

She made it clear she would not join any party and would decide on her future course of action after speaking to Jagruthi members, intellectuals and supporters, and that her decision would only benefit the State.

She quit only to prove her integrity, she added.

Power point: K. Kavitha shows her resignation letter during a press conference in Hyderabad on Wednesday. NAGARA GOPAL

Listing various initiatives she undertook from November 23, 2024 – after she was released from jail – including round table conferences, protests, and writing on women's reservation, Ms. Kavitha asked if all of it were "anti-party activities".

Ms. Kavitha asserted her family, KCR and brother K.T. Rama Rao, would be together regardless of any situation.

She alleged there was a conspiracy to disintegrate her family. Ms. Kavitha claimed that KCR and KTR too, face the same threat.

Knives are out in BRS: Revanth

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday that the internal squabble in the BRS was because of a disagreement over "distribution of ill-gotten money". He made light of the allegations that he was behind some BRS leaders in the ongoing political drama.

Kerala HC seeks clarity over name of Global Ayyappa Sangamam on Sept. 20

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has sought clarity on the Global Ayyappa Sangamam that has been planned on the banks of the Pampa river on September 20.

A Bench of Justice Devan Ramachandran and Justice Syam Kumar V.M. on Wednesday orally directed the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and other stakeholders to specify the nature of the event.

It said that the TDB did not mean Ayyappa alone. "If the event was being organised by the TDB, why call it Global Ayyappa Sangamam. Devotees' resources cannot be used for this. Any event organised by the TDB has to be spiritual and religious," the court said and cautioned about the need for transparency.

The court observations came on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by Ajeesh Kalathil Gopi, a lawyer seeking a direction to restrain the State government and the TDB from conducting the event.

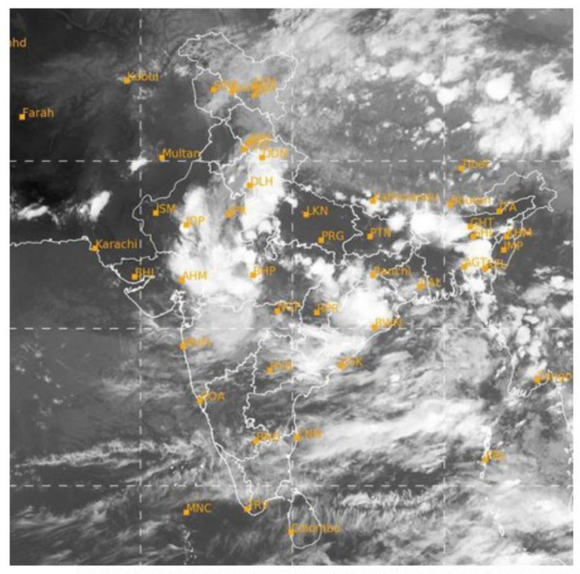
He contended that the event was a 'political one' and hence cannot be allowed in the name of Ayyappa. The TDB's counsel submitted that the event is being conducted to "showcase Sabarimala as a global pilgrimage centre and to propagate the universal message of 'Thathwamasi' to promote religious harmony and global unity."

The event also coincides with the platinum jubilee of the establishment of the TDB.

The case was posted for hearing on September 9.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	14	35.4	25.4	Kozhikode	—	32.5	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	33.5	25.5	Kurnool	9	31.4	23.9
Aizawl	8.2	34.1	22.1	Lucknow	0.3	34.0	25.9
Allahabad	0.5	33.0	26.1	Madurai	—	39.4	25.3
Bengaluru	6	27.2	20.0	Mangaluru	3.5	27.8	22.9
Bhopal	21	28.5	22.6	Mumbai	3	31.0	26.2
Bhubaneswar	12.4	29.0	24.5	Mysuru	—	26.2	19.0
Chandigarh	71	—	21.8	New Delhi	20	32.3	22.8
Chennai	—	34.2	27.4	Patna	2	34.3	27.3
Coimbatore	—	32.0	23.6	Port Blair	65	29.2	23.2
Dehradun	40	30.8	20.8	Puducherry	—	33.2	27.0
Gangtok	2	24.5	17.6	Pune	0.1	30.5	23.4
Goa	1	30.5	25.5	Raipur	56	30.4	23.0
Guwahati	—	36.4	27.0	Ranchi	9	27.4	22.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	26.4	18.6
Hyderabad	2	30.5	22.4	Shimla	22	20.6	16.8
Imphal	—	29.9	25.8	Srinagar	39	20.9	14.0
Jaipur	—	29.8	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.1	24.8
Kochi	—	29.4	25.6	Tiruchi	—	36.3	26.6
Kohima	—	25.8	18.4	Vijayawada	—	34.1	26.5
Kolkata	0.6	30.4	26.4	Visakhapatnam	0.9	32.4	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..78	32	 41	...105	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	30	 55	74	
Chennai	...2	..17	.—	 42	...116	
Delhi	...8	..20	49	 89	...107	
Hyderabad	.21	..23	32	... 105	90	
Kolkata	...4	102	20	 33	28	
Lucknow	...6	..35	38	 63	59	
Mumbai	..—	..39	18	 32	96	
Pune	..—	..30	86	 41	75	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..43	45	... 109	...122	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 123 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Udupi police unearth child procurement racket; 3 held

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Udupi police have arrested three persons, including a doctor, after unearthing a child procurement racket.

The illegal child procurement came to light when a couple attempted to register a four-year-old child under the Poshan Tracker scheme at an Anganwadi. The police gave the names of the accused as Somesh Solomon, Vijayalakshmi alias Vijaya, and Navneet Narayan.

In a complaint to the Shirva police, a staffer at the office of the Udupi District Child Protection Committee said that Prabhavati and her husband Ramesh Moolya from Kallugudde in Herur village of Kaup taluk had illegally kept with them a baby girl who was born at Colaco Hospital in Mangaluru on August 3.

An investigation revealed that the couple, who wanted a baby, approached their relative Priyanka, who introduced them to Vijayalakshmi and she promised to help them.

Vijayalakshmi, who runs a paying guest facility, and Solomon, who ran a polyclinic on B.C. Road, took ₹4.6 lakh from the couple, said the police.

The police said that Vijayalakshmi provided shelter to a woman and her 22-year-old daughter, who was four months pregnant following a rape. Pregnancy tests were conducted by impersonating the 22-year-old woman as Prabhavati. She was delivered of the child via Caesarean section at the Colaco Hospital after which the amount was paid to her.

Season's goods

Green traditions: An elderly woman vendor displays clay *Thrikkakarayappan* idols for sale in Palakkad on Saturday. With the festive spirit of Onam in the air, these traditional *Onathappan* sets are in high demand, selling for ₹200-₹500 per set. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Kerala doctors save teenager battling rare dual infection

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

This is the first case of a person surviving this co-infection, says State Health Minister Veena George

Doctors at Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, have successfully treated and saved a 17-year-old boy who was suffering from a rare co-infection of amoebic meningoencephalitis and Aspergillus flavus fungal infection, both of which are individually life-threatening infections.

Early identification and aggressive management with neurosurgery support were what saved the boy, who had been under intensive treatment for over three months. The boy, who had been admitted to the hospital in a comatose state, was normal at the time of discharge and seemed to be doing well when reviewed three weeks after discharge.

This is the first documented case of a person surviving this deadly co-infection, Health Minister Veena George said here on Wednesday.

She congratulated the medical teams – Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Neurosurgery departments at the MCH here and the Microbiology department at Alappuzha MCH, which first detected amoebic meningoencephalitis – for the remarkable feat.

The boy, a native of Sooranad in Kollam, had fallen ill a week after swimming in a pond in the neighbourhood. Doctors at the Alappuzha MCH had determined amoebic encephalitis to be the cause and had initiated the State protocol-based treatment early. He was shifted to MCH in the capital when his condition took a turn for the worse.

In the last two years, Kerala has reported 86 cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis, of which 21 were fatal. Naegleria fowleri has a 97% mortality and Acanthamoeba, over 60%. However, Kerala has managed to bring down the mortality rate to 23%-24%, she said.

"Amoebic encephalitis cases are not going up in the State. Studies have reported that 11% of acute cases of unknown etiology are due to amoeba. We have more cases because we are chasing every possible case and finding it," Ms. George said.

Ramanagar in Hubbali sends message of unity

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

At a time, when continuous efforts are being made to create a divide between various religions for political gains by vested interests, residents of Ramanagar in Hubballi, Karnataka, have sent a clear message of communal harmony by jointly celebrating Ganeshotsav keeping their religions aside.

For the last four years, along with Hindus, members of the Christian and Muslim communities have been celebrating the Ganesh festival by actively involving themselves not only in the rituals and programmes but also shouldering various responsibilities during the celebrations.

Unity in diversity: Residents of Ramanagar in Hubballi offer prayers to Lord Ganesha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thanks to coordinated efforts by like-minded people, now the Ganesh pandals in Ramanagar have been reduced to one grand pandal from 11, as all the people come together to celebrate the festival with bonhomie.

Members of the Christian and Muslim communities not only participate in the puja rituals but also involve themselves in distribution of prasad and also, make arrangements for the festivities.

According to office-bearer of the Ganesh Mandal and Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Council member Santosh Chalavadi, it all happened due to the efforts of like-minded people in all the communities.

"For the last 30 years, there have been public celebrations of Ganesh festival in Ramanagar. Ganesh idols used to be installed at 11 places, which used to create traffic problems. Four years ago, we all decided to have one Ganesh for one locality and for the purpose, a Sarva Dharma Seva Samiti (all religion service committee) was formed," he said.

"In fact, Ramanagar is like a mini-India. We have people speaking different languages, including Kannada, Urdu, Konkani, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, etc., But we celebrate all festivals together. That's why there are no skirmishes over religions in Ramanagar," he said.

During the 11-day public celebrations of the festival, members of different communities and religions take up the responsibility of mass feeding on different days. The all-religion committee which conducts the public celebrations has Chandrakanth Yadav as its president, while Seelan Xavier and Anwar Pathan are vice-presidents.

Collusion of excise officials, bar owners exposed in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau (VACB) has unearthed a widespread nexus between excise officials and bar owners in Kerala during Statewide flash raids in 69 excise circle offices under the Operation Safe Sip on Tuesday evening.

The raids revealed that excise officials have been accepting bribes in cash, liquor bottles, and digital payments from bar and liquor shop owners.

According to official sources, the drive was based on intelligence that indicated corruption among officials who purportedly collected huge bribes for ignoring malpractices, illicit liquor sales, and violations of excise and licensing laws, particularly during the festive Onam season.

Officials seized 25 bottles of liquor kept as bribes, unaccounted cash of ₹28,164, and traced ₹2,12,500 collected through Google Pay from liquor shop owners.

Rain and repeat

Excess rain is no excuse for damage caused by neglect of sluices

The heavy rains and flooding across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana this season underline how extreme weather interacts with governance. In 2024, Andhra Pradesh recorded 27% of its annual rainfall in two days; this August, Vizianagaram logged a 46% excess, with some parts reporting up to 90%. Consecutive years of extreme precipitation signal a shift in the monsoon's behaviour. Reservoir and barrage systems in river basins are designed to manage seasonal inflows but the timing and intensity of recent rain events matter. At one point this year, Srisailam was 94% full and Nagarjuna Sagar 96%, leaving little room for additional inflow. The crisis is really excess rainfall plus its concentration into short bursts when reservoirs are already nearly full. Last year, Budameru, a rivulet with a capacity of 7,000 cusecs, received 35,000 cusecs and flooded Vijayawada. The recurrence points to how minor tributaries and drainage channels, which are often neglected in policy, become debilitating choke points. While sheer volume explains part of the flooding, infrastructural weaknesses magnify the damage. At the Prakasam Barrage, one gate damaged last year remained unrepaired well into this season, hampering smooth water release. Along the Godavari, floodbanks near Bhadrachalam sank or collapsed in places, raising anxiety among residents on both sides of the border. In urban areas, partly desilted drains, encroached stormwater channels, and concretised surfaces have restricted water absorption. Overall, infrastructure exists but is not maintained or upgraded with urgency.

The disaster management apparatus in both States is mature and saved many lives. Yet, institutions remain less agile at reducing risk. Year after year, large sums are sanctioned for immediate relief (Telangana recently released ₹1 crore per district at short notice) but strengthening floodbanks and completing diversion channels remain unfinished. In 2024 and 2025, extreme rainfall arrived late in August and early September. Both times, the Krishna and Godavari systems were severely strained and Vijayawada was inundated. Both times, protests followed, highlighting incomplete Budameru works and opaque relief fund uptake. Extreme rainfall cannot be prevented but its consequences can be moderated by anticipating it. Reservoir management, for example, needs to incorporate real-time hydrological modelling so that water levels are drawn down before a deluge, creating flood cushions. Urban planning must prioritise drainage networks and reserve permeable land for water absorption, moving beyond cosmetic desilting drives. Flood banks and sluices require continuous, not episodic, maintenance, and their upkeep should be insulated from political cycles. Neither State is wrong to argue that extraordinary rains can overwhelm even robust systems, but both risk fatalism if they use this as an excuse to avoid reform.

Family politics

Kavitha is jostling for power within the BRS, not waging an ideological fight

The decision by the Congress-led Telangana government to seek a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into alleged irregularities related to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project has triggered a feud in the family of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) patriarch K. Chandrashekar Rao. Mr. Rao, the first Chief Minister of Telangana, who served two terms, is facing an uphill struggle for political survival after losing power to a resurgent Congress in 2023. K. Kavitha, his daughter, has publicly blamed her cousins – senior leader T. Harish Rao and former Member of Parliament J. Santosh Kumar – for her father's plight. The two leaders have been known to be close to the patriarch as well as his son and anointed successor K.T. Rama Rao. Mr. Rao is not a novice and he knows better than to be misled by anyone else. Ms. Kavitha's accusations are, hence, more about a tug of war within the family for inheritance and the spoils of power. Despite losing the Assembly election, she was given a party nomination as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), but she evidently thinks she deserved better. With her father, brother and cousins not willing to oblige her, Ms. Kavitha went public with the charges, and the party suspended her. Ms. Kavitha has resigned from the party and her position as an MLC.

Ms. Kavitha's outburst against her father's confidants may turn out to be politically suicidal for her. In fact, unrealistic political calculations run in the family, it appears, going by the senior Mr. Rao's missteps ahead of the 2023 election. Claiming a national role for himself, he had changed the party's name to the BRS – paradoxical for a leader and a party that had little more than regionalism as its key source of legitimacy. Far from realising any national role in the 2024 general election, Mr. Rao found the ground falling out from under his feet and corruption charges swirling around him. In May 2025, Ms. Kavitha had reportedly questioned her father's muted position with regard to the Bharatiya Janata Party. Her exit from the BRS marks a sign of crisis for a regional outfit that frittered its promise too soon. With a resourceful and dynamic State under its rule, the BRS and the Rao family could have left behind a stellar legacy in governance and development. By reducing electoral and organisational politics to crass power bargains and transactions, the BRS did itself and the new State considerable damage. In politics, a second chance is always possible for leaders and parties. But, as of now, the BRS stands diminished.

Concealing a judge's dissent, eroding judiciary's authority

Suhrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

Constitutional democracies are sustained not only by written laws but also by what the South African professor of law, Etienne Mureinik, first described as a "culture of justification". That is, the idea that every exercise of public power must be explained and defended. As Mureinik put it, "The leadership given by government rests on the cogency of the case offered in defence of its decisions, not the fear inspired by the force at its command."

Judges in India have routinely invoked this principle to demand accountability from the state. But with reports surfacing in the media of the dissent by Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court of India, on the Collegium's recommendation to elevate Justice Vipul M. Pancholi to the Court, it appears that this culture of justification ends at the Collegium's door. When it comes to the Court selecting its own members, the public seemingly have no right to know.

An indictment of the system

A dissent of this kind ordinarily would represent a moment of reckoning. But the Collegium and its almost total opacity has meant that the opposition has proven not so much a failure as a futile exercise. The resolution uploaded on the Court's website, displaying the recommendation, suggests unanimity. It makes no mention of dissent. We only learnt of Justice Nagarathna's objection through reports in the media. The note that she wrote remains hidden, but we are told that her reservations were "grave." It is unclear whether the dissent was even shared with the Union government, which, within 48 hours of the recommendation, went ahead and notified the appointment.

This gulf, between what we know happened and what we are permitted to know, epitomises the flaws inherent in the system governing how we appoint members to our courts. One of India's senior-most judges may have believed there were compelling reasons why the candidate's elevation should not have gone through, yet both her reasoning and the majority's response remain unknown. No doubt the dissent might only concern a single appointment. It is possible that the other members in the Collegium had overwhelming reasons to support the proposal. But the fact that the public is told nothing at all is itself an indictment of the system – its lack of transparency, its democratic deficit, and its refusal to explain itself to the people in whose name it acts.

The Collegium has been resistant to transparency from its inception. It is a product of judge-made law. Created in the "Second Judges Case" (1993) and entrenched in the "Third Judges Case" (1998), the system vests primacy in the five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court to appoint members of the higher judiciary. They deliberate in private, record decisions with minimal disclosure, and rarely explain their reasoning.

Beginning in 2017, the Collegium began publishing its resolutions. But these were skeletal at best and amounted to little more than formal announcements. For a short period in 2018, the Court uploaded fuller reasons for the Collegium's choices and rejections. However, the experiment was short lived, with the explanation that disclosure might damage reputations.

Justice Nagarathna's dissent reveals the cost of this retreat to secrecy. If even an objection from a serving Supreme Court judge is deemed too sensitive for the public, then we must ask whether the Collegium has not simply embraced opacity but crossed into outright rejection of accountability.

The weak defence

The defence of keeping its reasons confidential has always rested on two claims: that openness can harm the reputation of candidates who are not selected, and that it would expose the system to political pressures. On reasonable scrutiny, both claims collapse.

No doubt, marrying transparency with reputational fairness requires careful handling. But other constitutional democracies seem to manage it better than India does. Britain's Judicial Appointments Commission, for instance, sets out its criteria openly and issues reports explaining how candidates were assessed. In South Africa, candidates for higher judicial office are interviewed by the Judicial Service Commission, and their suitability debated in public. Neither system is flawless, but both proceed from the recognition that legitimacy flows from openness. India, by contrast, persists in treating the Collegium as a private conclave. Even the existence of dissent reaches us only through leaks. If reputational harm is a genuine concern, the answer must lie in carefully structuring disclosure to mitigate it. Denying justification altogether cannot be the solution. And if political pressure is feared, then secrecy has hardly prevented it. The executive, after all, continues to delay and stonewall inconvenient Collegium recommendations. It can return a name for reconsideration or, on re-recommendation, simply keep the file pending, stopping short of issuing the presidential warrant of appointment.

The stakes here go to the heart of India's democracy. Judges chosen today will shape the outcomes of India's most urgent constitutional questions that range from issues concerning civil liberties to the limits of executive power and the division of authority between the Union and the States. When citizens are informed only that a judge has been elevated, without reasons, or when a dissent by a sitting Supreme Court judge is shrouded in secrecy, institutional legitimacy withers. We quite rightly expect our courts to insist on accountability from other branches of the state. But in doing so, can they claim immunity for themselves?

Justice Nagarathna's dissent has not halted Justice Pancholi's elevation. Indeed, it is possible that the other members of the Collegium had good reasons to support his appointment. What they were, we will never know. But the larger issue here extends beyond a single name. It concerns whether the Court is prepared to live by the very principle it seeks to impose on every other organ of the state: that every exercise of public power must be justified.

In many democracies, anxieties about unelected judges striking down laws are framed as a counter-majoritarian difficulty. How can a system be democratic if those not chosen by the people wield such authority? At first blush, the concern seems real. But it misstates what democracy truly is. Democracy is not simply majoritarian rule by numbers. Properly understood, it is something more: a partnership between citizens that secures rights and ensures that liberty and equality structure public life. Unelected judges play an essential role here, by interpreting the law and by protecting rights against majoritarian excesses.

It is for this reason that the Constitution vests extraordinary prerogative power in an unelected judiciary. Judges are meant to act as independent arbiters, to check and balance government, to protect fundamental liberties. In doing so, they do not undermine democracy but only fulfil its highest aspirations.

The Collegium must accept reform

However, for the judiciary to retain its standing, the process by which judges are appointed must itself meet the strictest standards of accountability. The Collegium has too often withdrawn into a culture of concealment over justification. Unless it embraces reform, it risks diminishing the very legitimacy on which its authority rests. Too many opportunities for change have been spurned in the past; every step forward has been followed by two steps back, with each retreat eroding the values of transparency and integrity on which democracy depends.

A judiciary that subjects itself to the same standards of openness it demands of others will not weaken its autonomy. On the contrary, it will anchor its independence more securely in the trust and the confidence of the people.

A judiciary that subjects itself to the same standards of openness it demands of others will only gain greater trust and confidence of the people

India's recent maritime reforms need course correction

Abhijit Singh

is a retired naval officer and the former Head of the Maritime Policy Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

The passage of the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha, on August 18, marks a pivotal moment in India's maritime legislative history. Intended to repeal and replace the Act of 1908, it comes alongside the newly enacted Coastal Shipping Act, 2025, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, and the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, a legislative package that the government hails as critical to streamlining maritime governance and bringing India's shipping regulation in line with global practices.

Progress but with pitfalls

At first glance, these new laws represent a comprehensive attempt to modernise India's maritime governance. India's maritime regulation is fragmented and outdated, with modern shipping finance, offshore operations and international conventions long having outpaced the legal and operational frameworks in place. For India to expand its trade, attract foreign investment and enhance its maritime standing, aligning with global best practices is indeed necessary. In particular, the Indian Ports Act has been hailed as a facilitative law – one that enables ease of business, promotes sustainable port development, and brings coherence to India's otherwise disjointed regulatory environment. Even so, the Bill's passage without a serious parliamentary debate or referral to a standing committee raises questions, underlining the absence of political consensus and public scrutiny.

Notably, the Ports Act, 2025, has been criticised for centralising power at the expense of the States, diluting safeguards meant to protect Indian sovereignty. Critics point to its main feature, the Maritime State Development Council (chaired by the Union Minister of Ports) as a centralised policy-making authority with the power to direct States to follow central guidelines. Far from an illustration of cooperative federalism, they contend, the new Ports Act is an example of federal subordination, designed to ensure that States align their port development with central plans, such as Sagarmala and PM Gati Shakti regardless of their own priorities. Critics point to the Maritime State Development Council's structure and intent, where State maritime boards cannot adjust their own frameworks without central approval, as stripping coastal States of fiscal autonomy and flexibility, even while burdened with tight port management responsibilities.

The criticism is not confined to federal concerns. Experts warn that the new law introduces vague, discretionary regulatory powers that could saddle smaller operators with unmanageable compliance burdens. Equally troubling is the approach to dispute resolution: Clause 17 of the Bill bars civil courts from hearing port-related disputes, forcing parties into internal dispute resolution committees created by the very authorities they are contesting. Analysts caution that the absence of impartial, independent judicial review could deter private investment and erode trust in the regulatory system.

The issue about ownership

The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, is not free from flaws either. It seeks to modernise registration, ownership rules, safety standards, environmental obligations, and liability frameworks, with some admittedly notable pluses: expanding vessel definitions to cover offshore drilling units and non-displacement crafts; tightening oversight of maritime training institutes; and aligning India's liability and insurance rules with international conventions. Yet tucked into the fine print is a loophole in ownership safeguards. Under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, Indian-flagged vessels had to be fully Indian-owned. The new Act permits "partly" Indian ownership including by Overseas Citizens of India and foreign entities while leaving the actual thresholds to be decided later by government notification.

The law also formally recognises Bareboat Charter-Cum-Demise (BBCD) registration, intended to let Indian operators lease foreign vessels with a view to eventual ownership. While legitimate as a global financing tool, the BBCD could test India's regulatory capacity to ensure that transfers actually occur. Without clear, enforceable rules, foreign lessors may retain effective control indefinitely. Further, the Act mandates registration of all vessels, regardless of size or propulsion, without regard to the bureaucratic burdens that this places on small operators. What is most troubling is that it hands the executive a blank cheque to dilute ownership requirements whenever convenient, raising the risk of India sliding into a flag-of-convenience jurisdiction where foreign owners control ships flying the Indian flag.

Endangering smaller players

The final component of India's maritime reform package, the Coastal Shipping Act, ostensibly aims to clarify and strengthen cabotage rules, ensuring that only Indian-flagged vessels engage in domestic coastal trade. Though well-intentioned, it gives the Director General of Shipping sweeping discretion to licence foreign vessels on vague grounds such as "national security" or "alignment with strategic plans" – open-ended clauses that invite arbitrary or selective application. The real burdens are likely to fall on small operators, particularly in the fishing industry, who will struggle to comply with mandatory voyage and cargo reporting requirements in the absence of clear guidance on how such data will be used or protected. Members of Parliament from the Opposition have warned that the Act hands too much control to the Centre, potentially undermining local autonomy – a concern that applies equally to the centrally mandated National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan.

None of this is to deny the need for an updated legal framework. India certainly must modernise its maritime legislation. But reform should not come at the expense of federal balance and fair competition. Ownership thresholds and licensing rules ought to be clearly specified in law, not left to executive discretion. As it stands, too many of the provisions are arbitrary – from dispute resolution that lacks judicial independence to excluding States from any meaningful role in planning. These measures may be a beginning, but without significant amendments, they risk delivering ease of doing business for the few while eroding the federal compact and weakening India's long-term maritime security.

India should modernise its maritime legislation, but reform should not be at the expense of federal balance and fair competition

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Emotions' and politics

It is time that politicians stop playing with the emotions of people for their own gains. The "emotion card" is now being used as a "masterstroke" to divert attention from the real issues facing the common man, which include poverty, unemployment, inflation, income inequality and corruption. Raising irrelevant issues before an election to sway public opinion is nothing but a political gimmick. To quote Abraham Lincoln, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Let wisdom guide the electorate on such issues.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram

Rail passengers face danger

Hundreds of travellers at Ankola railway station in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka are forced to risk their lives by climbing down from platform 1 and crossing multiple tracks to board their trains. What is alarming is the railway authorities' apparent acceptance of this dangerous practice. Some even say that political intervention might be required to have an additional platform built. On August 30, passengers, including elderly and disabled individuals, were directed to use a temporary ladder to descend from platform 1 and cross live tracks to reach their train, diverted to a non-existent "platform 2".

Gurudatt Badageri,
Ankola, Karnataka

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Reviving MGNREGA in West Bengal

On June 18, the Calcutta High Court ordered the resumption of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in West Bengal from August 1, in a case filed by Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS). The order offered hope. However, according to reports in regional media, the Union government has since appealed to the Supreme Court, where the matter is yet to be listed. Reporting on the High Court's order, *The Hindu* noted that the court observed the scheme "cannot be kept in cold storage for eternity" and directed the Centre to resume implementation while allowing it to impose "special conditions" in West Bengal. Yet, after three years of silence, the resumption risks being a hollow gesture unless urgent groundwork is laid to restore the scheme to function.

Chakradhar Buddha

is associated with LibTech India, a centre based in Collaborative Research and Dissemination. Views are personal

Actionable steps to be taken

MGNREGA is predominantly funded by the Union government. Enacted in 2005, it guarantees 100 days of paid employment per year to every rural household that demands it. For millions – especially women, Dalits, Adivasis, and landless workers – it is a vital buffer during lean agricultural seasons and economic distress.

When the Centre halted MGNREGA funds to West Bengal in March 2022, it cited "widespread irregularities." However, an RTI filed by the author revealed that this sweeping suspension was based on findings from just 31 worksites, even though the State had received over ₹10,000 crore under MGNREGA in 2020-21. Halting a lifeline for millions on such limited evidence was not only disproportionate but also devastating.

The fallout has been immense. In the first year alone, West Bengal's rural workforce lost over ₹4,000 to 6,000 crore in potential wages, according to policy research group LibTech India.

But the deeper damage is institutional. Restarting MGNREGA requires more than a green signal – it demands trust-building, logistical preparation, and administrative muscle.

A foundational task is the identification and planning of work. Each year, State governments must prepare a shelf of works at the village level well in advance. Whenever works are eventually resumed, these preparatory measures will be essential to ensure that the scheme is meaningful and not a hollow gesture. Without identifying feasible works, no projects can be undertaken.

This task is further complicated by national-level changes introduced during West Bengal's exclusion. Over the past three years, the Centre has implemented several technology-driven reforms aimed at transparency and accountability.

Chief among them is the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS). Under ABPS, workers are paid only if their Aadhaar is correctly linked, authenticated, and mapped through the National Payments Corporation of India.

As of June 21, 2025, official data show that over 43 lakh of West Bengal's 2.56 crore registered workers are not ABPS-compliant. Even among the 18.5 lakh marked as active – those who worked at least once in the last three years before the suspension – over 2.3 lakh remain ineligible. Without a rapid compliance campaign, lakhs could be excluded. A practical step would be for the Centre to temporarily allow account-based payments alongside ABPS until full compliance is achieved.

Worker deletions are another pressing concern. In 2022-23, over 83 lakh workers were removed from West Bengal's rolls – nearly 15% of national deletions. Identifying and reinstating them is essential. Yet, with only one login per block, district, and State, processing this backlog is unmanageable. The Centre must expand login access and streamline reinstatement.

Meanwhile, the National Mobile Monitoring System – a mandatory attendance app requiring real-time, geo-tagged photos – remains a bottleneck. In West Bengal, where frontline officials have not supervised worksites for three years, expecting them to adapt overnight is unrealistic. A temporary exemption and paper-based attendance are necessary until training and infrastructure catch up.

Equally urgent is the human resource gap. Field supervisors are paid like workers but expected to manage attendance, site measurements, and daily records. After years of inactivity, many have moved on. The State must re-engage them through financial incentives, refresher training, and recognition.

Reviving MGNREGA is about preventing the same failures from recurring. Systemic reforms – such as stronger grievance redressal, timely payments, open-access dashboards, and regular social audits – must be implemented in spirit, not just on paper.

This is also an opportunity to initiate a consultative process between the administration and civil society organisations that have long engaged with MGNREGA's implementation and reform. A revitalised State Employment Guarantee Council could act as a platform for dialogue, accountability, and course correction in real time.

Legal uncertainty

With the Centre's appeal now before the Supreme Court, the legal uncertainty only reinforces the central point: whether or not the High Court's order ultimately stands, MGNREGA's revival in West Bengal hinges on rebuilding trust, capacity, and systems rather than merely ticking bureaucratic boxes.

The Centre, State, and local bodies must act now to restore this lifeline – ensuring that no worker is left behind. Failure would betray the rural poor once more. They deserve swift action, not empty assurances.

The Centre, State, and local bodies must act now to restore this lifeline – ensuring that no worker is left behind

Onam and the true Kerala story

Onam embodies Kerala's story of harmony, inclusivity, and resilience

STATE OF PLAY

P. A. Mohamed Riyas

Kerala indeed has a story to tell – a story that reflects the character, camaraderie, and spirit of fellowship that permeates its social structure from time immemorial: the iconic festival of Onam.

A celebration of the true Kerala story, Onam is an enduring tale of togetherness, interwoven with the nostalgia of a social order where all people lived in perfect harmony.

The idea of Onam has, since ancient times, instilled in Malayalis' minds an intense longing for an egalitarian society, free from exploitation, greed, lies, and deceit. That was a society united by shared values and a strong sense of belonging. This nostalgia has had a deep impact on Kerala's history, culture, and politics.

The symbolism attached to the festival is both unique and fervent. The legend has it that Onam marks the annual visit to Kerala by King Mahabali, who reigned over the land of plenty eons ago – a land in which everyone was equal and everything was fair. Along with the legend of '*Mavelinad*' (The land of Mahabali), Onam also resonates with hope, resilience, and inclusivity.

Over time, Onam has evolved into an occasion for all to celebrate, transcending barriers of class, caste, and creed. This sense of togetherness has gained further strength since Kerala started its transformation into a modern, progressive, and aspirational society.

What makes the Kerala story fascinating and ever relevant is its celebration of social harmony in a pluralistic setting.

Since its formation as a State of the Indian Union, Kerala has emerged as a successful model of social development and inclusion. Total literacy, universal education, and a strong public healthcare system are some of the key features of the famed Kerala model. What makes it exceptional is its inclusivity.

A few days back, Kerala crossed yet another critical threshold in socio-economic inclusion by attaining full digital literacy, the first in India.

This profound transformation was not a miracle pulled off by governments alone. The State has built on the ground prepared by the social reform movements led by trailblazers such as Sree Narayana Guru. Of course, the State's left-oriented politics has also been a key driver of this transition.

Distorting the true image

Amidst all these irrefutable facts, it is unfortunate that recently there have been some malicious attempts to depict Kerala as a strife-torn society and a fertile ground for recruiting youngsters for radical activities.

It is also a matter of concern that these falsified narratives often gain entry into even prestigious events and are bestowed with national honours.

As a society that prides itself on its secular ethos, Malayalis have rejected outright such vicious attempts. Still, the vested interests out to polarise the society on communal lines need to be called out. This is essential to remove whatever little misunderstanding this ill-motivated propaganda has left in the minds of the non-Malayali communities.

The idea of Onam, the way it is longed for, greeted, and celebrated by all sections of people, is a strong counter to the evil designs of polarising forces. This is an occasion for our writers, filmmakers, theatre personalities, and artists of all genres to come out and celebrate Onam in its true spirit.

A community festival

Apart from celebrations at home, Onam has become a community festival. Many of its cultural expressions associated with Onam have moved to community spaces. This enables all sections to be part of the festival and to cement the social solidarity.

The week-long Onam celebrations organised by the State government have been an annual feature. Helmed by the Tourism department, the festival showcases the best of Kerala's classical, folk, and ethnic art traditions in the state capital and scores of venues. The festival has become a major tourist attraction during the season, besides drawing local crowds to enjoy dance, songs, and dramas for an entire week.

Onam has sustained Kerala's traditional art, craft, and rural sports. The season marks the commencement of Kerala's snake-boat races.

It all sums up the central message of Onam – social harmony and inclusivity, celebrated gracefully.

P A Mohamed Riyas is Minister for Tourism and Public Works, Kerala

Less than 40% of disabled persons have ID needed for benefits

Delay in processing UDID applications is one of the reasons for low coverage

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Less than 40% of India's projected population of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) have been issued a Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, which enables access to government benefits, data show. Over 11 lakh applications for UDID cards are still pending, with more than 60% pending for over six months.

The UDID sub-scheme, under the Union government's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), is implemented for creating a national database for PwDs. These cards allow persons with disabilities to access key benefits from schemes. One such scheme is the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities (ADIP), which helps them procure wheelchairs, crutches, prostheses, hearing aids, Braille slates, and more. It also allows them to opt for scholarships in educational institutions and for reservations in government jobs.

Less than half of PwDs in 23 States have received the card, with the share crossing the 50% mark only in Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Karnataka **(Map 1)**. West Bengal stands out, with only about 6%. Relevant data for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were not available separately.

The figures used by the DEPwD to calculate the UDID card coverage are based on PwD population projected using the 2011 Census and NSSO 76th round's numbers, according to Shashank Pandey, lawyer and founder of Politics and Disability Forum, who works on political representation of PwDs.

The implementation of the UDID sub-scheme was staggered, according to Mr. Pandey. Prior to the introduction of this scheme, only State-specific disability certificates were issued at the district or taluka level. Mr. Pandey says that when the UDID system was rolled out, the shift to this new form of identification was not effectively communicated at the ground level.

The delay in processing UDID applications, as noted earlier, is also one of the many reasons why the coverage numbers are low. Of the 34 States/UTs for which data was analysed, over half of the applications for UDID cards have been pending for over six months. As shown in **Map 2**, over 80% of applications were pending for over six months in Himachal Pradesh, the highest such share among major States. The delayed application crossed the mark in Ladakh (UT) and Mizoram.

Mr. Pandey explains that, as the UDID card can only be applied for through a website, another aspect hindering the issuance is digital literacy. "Not everyone is that well-versed in terms of navigating the digital interface," he explains.

The online UDID application expects the applicant to upload scanned documents to the portal. Latest government survey data show that only 60% of India's population above the age of 15 displayed the ability to use copy and paste tools to duplicate or move documents, using mobile or computer-like devices **(Chart 3)**.

The share is much lower if only women were considered. The corresponding figure specific to persons with disabilities was not available.

Even as overall funds for schemes for PwDs have increased, the UDID sub-scheme, crucial for accessing many of these benefits, has seen its funding reduced **(Chart 4)**.

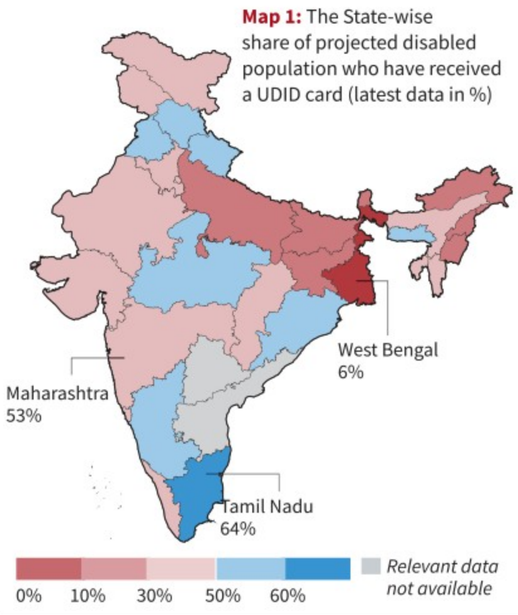
Mr. Pandey explains that the overall negligence towards persons with disabilities can be explained by their strength as a political unit. "Persons with disabilities form a very small political constituency, just about 2.68 crore people as per the Census, and are not strong enough as an identity group to make a difference in votes. Hence, they are not taken seriously," he says.

Inaccessible benefits

The data for the charts were sourced from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, and Lok Sabha Questions and Answers

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview with Shashank Pandey, lawyer and founder of Politics and Disability Forum

Map 1: The State-wise share of projected disabled population who have received a UDID card (latest data in %)



Map 2: The State-wise share of cases pending for more than 6 months (latest data in %)

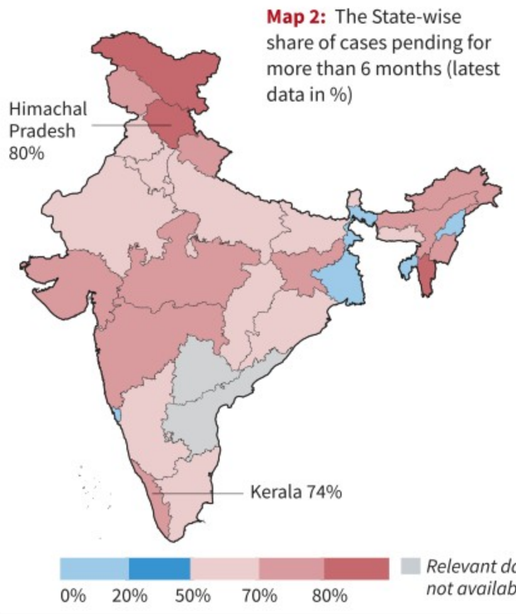


Chart 3: Population (15+ years) who can use copy and paste tools to move documents, on mobiles or computers

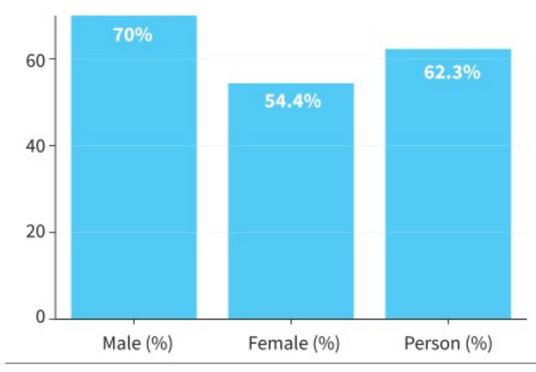
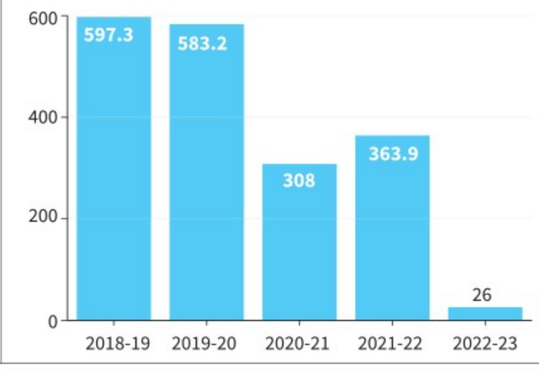


Chart 4: Funds released under UDID sub-scheme from 2019 to 2023 (in ₹ lakh)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

WMO plans weather modification programme

New Delhi, September 3: The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has taken up a programme on weather modification.

The programme approved at the recent session of the quadrennial Congress of WMO in Geneva aims at enabling "WMO to render sound technical and scientific advice to member-countries on weather modification activities." The most important part of the programme will be a Precipitation Enhancement Project (PEP) consisting of "an internationally planned, coordinated and scientifically evaluated field experiment." The programme will also give attention to tropical cyclone modification, hail and lightning suppression and fog dispersal.

The duration of the project will spread over several years covering the preparatory phase, the actual experiment and the evaluation of the results.

The WMO has emphasised that weather modification is still largely at the research stage. Although some cloud seeding experiments have apparently yielded positive results, "the possible practical benefits of weather modification can be realised only through an increased research effort."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1925

Leaders' tribute

Bombay, September 4: Nearly fifty Associations have combined together to celebrate fittingly the birth centenary of Dadabhai Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India. Mahatmaji was invited to preside over the public meeting and he arrived yesterday. The "Chronicle" has published a special Dadabhai Centenary Supplement, giving messages of prominent people like Gandhiji, Mrs. Naidu and Lajpat Rai.

Gandhiji in his message says: "Dadabhai earned the affectionate title of G.O.M. of India. In discovering the growing poverty of the masses, Dadabhai put his finger on the root evil of the present system of Government. In my opinion, therefore, the best way we can celebrate the forthcoming centenary is to do something tangible for dealing with the problem of poverty. It cannot be dealt with satisfactorily save through the universal adoption of the spinning wheel and Khaddar."

From Page One

GST Council approves two-rate tax slab

Products such as air-conditioners, all TVs, dishwashers, small cars, and motorcycles of engine capacity less than or equal to 350cc would see their tax reduced from 28% to 18%. Buses, trucks and ambulances, as well as all auto parts, would also attract a GST rate of 18%. Spectacles to correct vision would move from the 28% slab to 5%.

"The long-pending inverted duty structure is being rectified for the manmade textile sector by reducing the GST rate on manmade fibre from 18% to 5% and manmade yarn from 12% to 5%," Ms. Sitharaman said. The inverted duty structure regarding the fertiliser will also be rectified, with the duty on sulphuric acid, nitric acid and ammonia being reduced from 18% to 5%.

The special rate of 40% will apply only on particular sin and super-luxury goods such as pan masala, cigarettes, gutka, chewable tobacco, zarda, unmanufactured tobacco and beedi, as well as goods such as aerated water, caffeinated beverages, mid-size or large cars, motorcycles of engines exceeding 350cc, among others.

On insurance services, individual life insurance policies and individual health policies will move to 0% from 18%.

Ms. Sitharaman said that the GST rate on pan masala, gutka, cigarettes, chewable and unmanufactured tobacco, and beedi would remain at 28%, in addition to a compensation cess. Once the Centre discharges the loans it had borrowed to compensate States, these tobacco and tobacco-related items will move to the 40% slab.

'Governors must act forthwith on Bills'

Justice Surya Kant observed the proviso acted as a "second filter" on State Bills.

"But prevention is better than cure, no?" Justice Vikram Nath interjected.

Mr. Sibal replied there was a presumption of constitutionality associated with Bills passed by the legislature. References to the President by Governors were once rare instances. "Now, Governors create conflict by sitting over Bills for years together. Their doubts about the constitutionality of Bills, especially in the case of re-passed Bills, is bogey... The power given to Governors to assent, withhold assent or refer State Bills to the President under Article 200 are not discretionary choices, but constitutional routes," he responded.

Karnataka, represented by senior advocate Gopal Subramanium, said State Legislatures cannot allow other constitutional authorities to invade upon their legislative powers. He noted that the Centre's argument that the President and Governors have wide discretionary powers was "fundamentally flawed".

"In the parliamentary form of democracy, the aid and advice of the Cabinet is central. There cannot be a dyarchy within a State. Governors have to act under the aid and advice of the State government. Governance cannot happen in a constant state of conflict or threat of conflict," Mr. Subramanium submitted.

Advocate Anand Sharma, a former Union Minister, said neither the President nor Governors have any role in lawmaking.

Rain fury claims several lives across north India

In Haryana, incessant rain caused waterlogging across several districts. Haryana Public Health Minister Ranbir Gangwa directed officers to identify vulnerable areas and ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water across the State. He ordered field officers to be on duty 24 hours.

In adjoining Delhi, the overflowing Yamuna inundated dwellings on the floodplains. The river, swollen as Wazirabad and Hathnikund barrages kept releasing high volumes of water, crossed the danger mark in the city.

In J&K, all schools and the Srinagar-Jammu highway were shut. Officials said heavy discharge in rivers and streams, and landslips damaged scores of bridges and inter-district roads in the Jammu division's Reasi, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Doda and Jammu. In the Kashmir valley, roads were damaged in Kulgam and Shopian districts. Sakeena Itoo, Minister for Health and Medical Education, directed doctors, paramedics and other medical staff to remain available round the clock. *(With inputs from PTI)*

Foreign firms halted India projects in Q1

"This is very largely the impact of tariff uncertainties," D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY India, told *The Hindu*. Mr. Srivastava, however, was confident that a large part of these investments would return once there was greater clarity on the tariffs.

The value of new projects announced by foreign companies in India in Q1 stood at ₹22,490 crore. While this was nearly 50% higher than in Q1 of last year, this is likely because the April-June 2024 quarter saw an overall investment slowdown due to last year's general election. The value of new project announcements by foreign companies in Q1 was 56% lower than the long-term quarterly average.

Jaishankar meets German Foreign Minister, pushes for EU-India FTA

Trade agreement will help stabilise global economy as a 'ballast which today the world economy really needs', says External Affairs Minister; the visiting German Minister calls Russian and Chinese aggression the biggest international challenges

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Common cause: S. Jaishankar during a meeting with his German counterpart, Johann Wadephul, in New Delhi. PTI

India and Germany committed on Wednesday to doubling trade and expediting efforts to complete the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement under negotiation, amid uncertainty over whether Europe would follow the U.S. in imposing secondary sanctions on countries for buying Russian oil.

After talks with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the two sides discussed the "twin challenges" of economic volatility and political uncertainty, a reference to the U.S. imposition of 50% tariffs and sanctions.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Mr. Wadephul called Russia and China the two biggest challenges to the international world order.

"We would like the [India-EU FTA talks] to move to a decisive conclusion in the coming days," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the next round of talks between trade negotiators. He added that an FTA would help stabilise the global economy as a "ballast which today the world economy really needs".

Indian and EU negotiators have fast-tracked their talks and expect to meet more regularly, possibly every month in order to reach the year-end deadline set by EU President Ursula Von der Leyen and Prime Minister Narendra Modi when they met in February this year. However, as with the India-U.S. trade negotiations, the two sides have differences over issues such as agricultural market access for food and dairy products.

Another major issue may arise between the two sides if the EU leadership follows U.S. President Donald Trump in imposing secondary sanctions on Indian companies due to the purchase of Russian oil. On Friday, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced that Germany and France would push for the U.S. and the EU to enforce sanctions on "other nations whose purchases of oil and gas finance a large part of Russia's war economy".

In New Delhi, Mr. Wadephul did not respond directly to a question about whether Germany would endorse the penalty tariffs against India, but said their intention was to ensure Russia would come to the negotiating table with Ukraine.

"We have not used tariffs but sanctions that we have imposed on Russia so as to ensure that Russia which has to fund its war will be less able to do so", he said, adding that while the EU countries did not want to stop countries from accessing the oil they need, Russia should not be able to use "detours" to sell its oil to Europe. In the last round of sanctions, the EU had banned trade with Nayara Energy, a consortium of Russian oil major Rosneft and other companies in India.

The German Foreign Minister, who arrived in India a day after Mr. Modi's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping made international headlines, also lashed out at Russian and Chinese "aggression", and said he welcomed Mr. Modi's call for a ceasefire in Ukraine during his meetings.

"China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific is cause for concern for both our countries," Mr. Wadephul said, adding, "Security in the Indo Pacific is closely linked to security in Europe. Russia's war of aggression, for us in Germany and Europe, remains the biggest challenge to our security policy."

Mr. Jaishankar sidestepped the comments by the German Minister, saying India believed that a "multi-polar world with strategic autonomy can best respond [to economic and political challenges] through more intensive consultations and cooperation among key member states".

SC defers hearing on Gadling's bail plea to Sept. 17

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred the hearing of the bail plea filed by Bhima Koregaon violence case accused and advocate Surendra Gadling to September 17, amid concerns raised by his lawyers that the petition has remained pending since October 2023.

"We will take up this matter after two weeks on September 17," a Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and K. Vinod Chandran said. The case came up before this Bench for the first time after a Bench led by Justice M.M. Sundresh recused itself on August 26, without assigning reasons.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for Mr. Gadling, submitted that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had not filed its response despite notice being issued on October 10, 2023. He stressed that the activist had spent over six years in custody. Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the NIA, sought further time to place the reply on record.

Floods affect BSF outposts along border with Pakistan

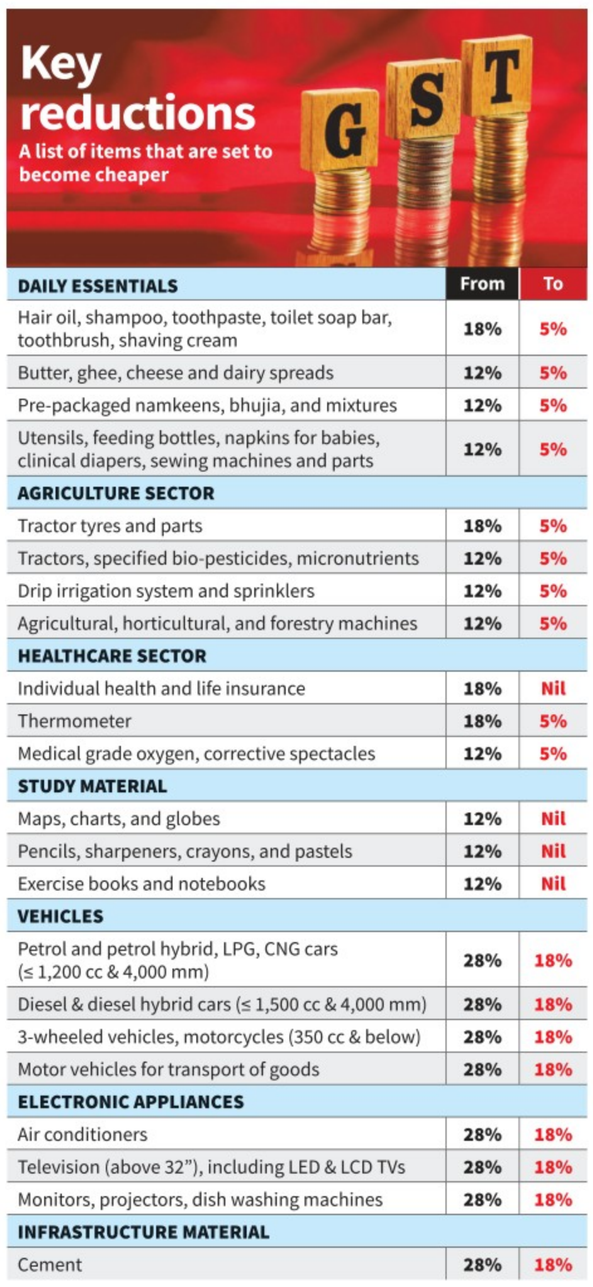
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nearly 100 border outposts of the Border Security Force (BSF) and around 110 kilometres of fencing along the Pakistan border in Jammu and Punjab have been affected due to the unprecedented rain and floods in the region, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

The official said the BSF personnel are deployed on "high ground" and are taking the help of drones and surveillance tools to keep a check on activities along the International Boundary (IB).

"No part of the border has been left unattended or deserted due to the floods. The personnel are on a high alert and a strict vigil is maintained to keep a check on infiltration or other criminal activities," said the official.

A BSF official in Jammu stated that some border outposts (BOP) had been washed away and some were tilting precariously but the situation was improving.



	From	To
DAILY ESSENTIALS		
Hair oil, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet soap bar, toothbrush, shaving cream	18%	5%
Butter, ghee, cheese and dairy spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged namkeens, bhujia, and mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils, feeding bottles, napkins for babies, clinical diapers, sewing machines and parts	12%	5%
AGRICULTURE SECTOR		
Tractor tyres and parts	18%	5%
Tractors, specified bio-pesticides, micronutrients	12%	5%
Drip irrigation system and sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, horticultural, and forestry machines	12%	5%
HEALTHCARE SECTOR		
Individual health and life insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical grade oxygen, corrective spectacles	12%	5%
STUDY MATERIAL		
Maps, charts, and globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise books and notebooks	12%	Nil
VEHICLES		
Petrol and petrol hybrid, LPG, CNG cars (≤ 1,200 cc & 4,000 mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & diesel hybrid cars (≤ 1,500 cc & 4,000 mm)	28%	18%
3-wheeled vehicles, motorcycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%
ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES		
Air conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32"), including LED & LCD TVs	28%	18%
Monitors, projectors, dish washing machines	28%	18%
INFRASTRUCTURE MATERIAL		
Cement	28%	18%

Gawli steps out of jail after 18 years as SC grants him bail in 2007 murder case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Legal relief: Arun Gawli arrives at the Nagpur airport following his release from the Central jail in the city on Wednesday. PTI

Nearly 18 years after he was arrested for the murder of Shiv Sena leader Kamlakar Jamsandekar, gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli stepped out of the Nagpur Central Jail on Wednesday after the Supreme Court last week granted him bail in the 2007 case.

Gawli had been serving a life sentence under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). On August 28, the Supreme Court ordered his release, observing that Gawli had spent nearly two decades behind bars while his appeal remained pending before the court.

"Taking into consideration that the appellants have been incarcerated for a period of almost 18 years, we are inclined to grant bail to them," the top court said in its order. The court made it clear that Gawli's release would be subject to conditions imposed by the trial court and granted the prosecution liberty to seek cancellation of bail if he violates these terms or faces any new criminal charges.

Gawli walked out of jail around half past noon after completing all legal formalities. He was welcomed by a large crowd of family members, relatives, lawyers, and supporters. Amid tight security, he was immediately escorted to the Nagpur airport, from where he flew to Mumbai.

Once a feared underworld figure from Dagdi Chawl in Byculla, Gawli rose to prominence in Mumbai's gang wars before making a transition to politics. He founded the Akhil Bharatiya Sena and served as the MLA for Chinchpokli between 2004 and 2009.

In August 2012, a Mumbai sessions court sentenced him to life imprisonment for orchestrating the murder of Jamsandekar and imposed a fine of ₹17 lakh. The Bombay High Court upheld the conviction on December 9, 2019. He challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court.

Govt. plans to link 11 lakh anganwadis with schools

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

In a bid to ensure continuity in early childhood education, the Union government on Wednesday issued guidelines to facilitate co-location efforts to place almost 11 lakh anganwadis on the premises of primary schools.

Anganwadi centres cater to the nutrition and early learning needs of children between zero and six years, and locating them on school premises enables a smooth transition to formal schooling in Class 1. The guidelines were issued jointly by the Ministries of Education and Women and Child Development, which oversees anganwadi centres.

So far, nearly 2.9 lakh anganwadis have been co-located with the nearest schools, out of the 14 lakh anganwadis and 9.16 lakh schools with Class 1, Secretary, Women and Child Welfare, Anil Malik said. "However, there are close to 11 lakh anganwadis which have not been mapped or co-location has not occurred," he added.

"Before this, there were no synergistic and convergence guidelines on how AWCs and schools having Grade 1 should work together. There was a sense in the field that the role of anganwadi was different from that of schools and that there was no organic link between the two," he noted, adding that it is vital to map anganwadis to the nearest schools to ensure that lower-income group children are provided access to pre-primary education.

The guidelines were jointly launched by Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Annpurna Devi. FILE PHOTO

The Union government has issued a curriculum for children aged three to six years, titled 'Aadharshila'. Co-location can help in convergence between anganwadi staff and school teachers, joint planning of activities, curriculum alignment, and active community participation, Mr. Malik said.

The guidelines provide States and Union Territories with a road map to strengthen their co-location procedure, he added.

The guidelines were jointly launched by Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi.

They emphasise the importance of reconciling the data of children between three and six years in the target population to avoid duplication between MoE and MoWCD databases.

Mr. Kumar explained that the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry IDs (APAAR IDs) now being provided to school children from Class 1 onwards can be extended for children between the ages of three and six who attend anganwadis, for easier tracking.

He added that the MoE is in discussion with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to ensure that the civil registration and Aadhar databases can be linked for a child from the moment they are born and assigned an identity. "This unique number will stay with the child for their entire life, and can be converted into Poshan Tracker and APAAR ID when the child enters the school system."

Rahul seeks special relief package for rain-hit States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately announce a special relief package for Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the wake of devastating floods in north India.

The Centre should also accelerate relief and rescue operations, Mr. Gandhi said in a video statement on X. The Prime Minister's attention and active help from the Centre were extremely necessary at such difficult times, he stressed.

Ready to contest polls, awaiting party nod: Prashant

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Former poll strategist and founder of the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) Prashant Kishor on Wednesday said he wanted to contest in the coming Bihar Assembly election, due in October-November, if his party's election committee gave the nod for it.

If Chief Minister Nitish Kumar contested the election, he would "definitely contest against him, even by confronting [the JSP] party leaders", Mr. Kishor said in an interview to a TV news channel on Wednesday.

"Yes, I want to contest the election and I have communicated this to my party. A 35-member party committee, which is looking after who will contest the poll, and from where, will eventually decide about me as well," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Kishor had said the JSP would contest all 243 seats in Bihar in the election, and said that his party would be "either be on top or at the bottom".

BJP to hold meetings with partners on Bihar strategy

Discussions with NDA allies to be held in every Assembly seat over the next three weeks; leaders to rally against offensive language aimed at PM's mother and counter Opposition's campaign

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has drawn up a programme for joint meetings with all its alliance partners in every Assembly constituency in Bihar, and intends to launch a counter on the issue of the offensive language aimed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother during an Opposition rally in the State, as well as the Opposition's campaign against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

At a strategy session of the BJP's Bihar core group held in New Delhi, the party concentrated on campaign programmes and assessments of the political situation on the ground in the run-up to the Assembly polls in the State.

Bihar BJP State president Dilip Jaiswal said that seat-sharing arrangement with allies did not figure in the discussion as it was a call to be taken by the central leadership.

Plan of action: BJP president J.P. Nadda and the party's Bihar president Dilip Jaiswal were part of discussions in Delhi. FILE PHOTO

Candidate selection

He added that the election campaign committee would be announced soon and extensive measures would be put in place for the selection of candidates. It was decided, he said, to hold meetings of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) workers in every Assembly constituency by September 25.

BJP president J.P. Nadda and key State leaders, including Mr. Jaiswal, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, besides national general secretary Vinod Tawde, who is in charge of Bihar, and co-in-charge Deepak Prakash, were part of the deliberations. Sources present at the meeting said that 11 of the 12 core group leaders from the party's Bihar unit attended the meeting. They added that it was the view among several party leaders that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against the SIR of electoral rolls in the State did not have any popular traction outside the support base of the Opposition.

Local issues

"It may even backfire on the Opposition as their campaign has pushed local issues related to governance and leadership out of the limelight," said a leader present at the meeting.

The abuse aimed at Mr. Modi's mother during a rally by the Opposition and the absence of any condemnation from INDIA bloc leaders would also cost the Opposition, said sources.

Tejashwi Yadav hits back at Modi, questions timing of remarks on 'mother's insult'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks against the Opposition over the alleged insult to his mother as "*Dikhawati* (show off)". He questioned the timing of Mr. Modi's remarks.s

He said Mr. Modi had in the past spoken about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "DNA", and referred to Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's wife as "50 crore *ki* girlfriend", besides insulting Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

Mr. Yadav's comment came a day after the Prime Minister slammed the RJD and Congress over an alleged insult to his mother during the "Voter Adhikar Yatra" in Darbhanga on August 27. A youth was arrested for making the remarks.

"Everyone has a mother and nobody should ever use abusive language against anyone's mother.

Tejashwi Yadav

We do not support such acts, but the question is, why did the Prime Minister campaign for Prajwal Revanna [former MP convicted in a rape case recently]," Mr. Yadav asked.

'Used abusive language'

He further said, "It was Modi*ji* who said '50 crore *ki* girlfriend' and used abusive language against Sonia Gandhi*ji*... was it appropriate for the Prime Minister to speak on Nitish Kumar's DNA? BJP legislators have insulted my mother and sister on the floor of the Bihar Assembly. Several times, BJP spokespersons have insulted mothers and sisters on camera."

Mr. Yadav raised questions on the timing of Mr. Modi's statement. He said Mr. Modi had visited foreign countries after the remarks were made and could be seen laughing when he was abroad, but began crying once he returned to India.

He alleged that the BJP was a party that respected and honoured leaders who abused women.

Mr. Modi had on Tuesday lashed out at the Opposition during a video address from New Delhi, saying that the remarks on his mother were an insult to the mothers of the country, including those in Bihar. Without naming Mr. Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he had said the "young princes" could not understand the pain of a poor mother.

Mr. Yadav took a dig at NDA parties in Bihar for calling a State-wide bandh on Thursday in protest against the alleged insult to Mr. Modi's mother.

'Travesty of justice': Left parties on denial of bail to Umar, others

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Left parties on Wednesday slammed the Delhi High Court's decision to deny bail to Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and eight others for their alleged involvement in the 2020 Delhi riots.

The CPI(M) said the decision amounts to a "travesty of justice" and negation of the principle that "grant of bail is the rule and refusal the exception".

The CPI(ML) called "their prolonged incarceration" a "political conspiracy to silence dissenting voices".

Mr. Imam, Mr. Khalid, and others have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly conspiring in the 2020 communal riots in Delhi. This was the fifth time that their bail plea was rejected.

The CPI(M) said the Delhi Police had not been able to frame charges against the accused. No action had been taken against BJP leaders Kapil Mishra and Anurag Thakur, whose alleged "incendiary speeches actually fuelled the same Delhi communal riots". Instead of holding the "real culprits" accountable, the government has chosen to persecute those who stood up against communal violence and led democratic protests against the unconstitutional CAA-NRC, the CPI(ML) said.

Union govt. exempts Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who came before January 9, 2015 from penal provisions

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has exempted Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who came to India before January 9, 2015 from penal provisions if found to be without valid passports, travel documents or visa.

India does not recognise refugees and the exemption effectively means that the Sri Lankan Tamils registered with the government will not be treated as illegal migrants.

Earlier, on December 16, 2015, the Ministry, through an executive order, had decided to waive the visa fees and overstay penalty in respect of Sri Lankan refugees who came prior to January 9, 2015 and who opt to voluntarily return to Sri Lanka.

Under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 enacted in April, the entry and stay of foreigners without passport or valid documents was made punishable by a fine of ₹5 lakh or up to five years' imprisonment or both.

The Act repealed and replaced four laws that determine the provision regarding entry and stay of foreigners and immigration.

"The provisions of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 3 (requirement of passport or other travel document or visa) of the 2025 Act to the extent of their stay in India and for the purposes of exiting India shall not apply to registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who have taken shelter in India up to the 9th January, 2015," the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025 notified in the Gazette on September 2 said.

A Sri Lankan Tamil camp. The exemption means registered Sri Lankan Tamils will not be treated as illegal migrants. FILE PHOTO

The Ministry has also exempted undocumented members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan from penal provisions and possible deportation if they entered India before December 31, 2024.

A senior government official said the exemption made through the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order was to enable the undocumented migrants from the six minority communities from three countries "who were compelled to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution" to seek long-term visas, which are a precursor to citizenship.

'Not extended'

The official clarified that the exemption does not mean that the cut-off date for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) has been extended from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2024.

There have been demands from the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal to extend the cut-off date. On Wednesday, Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar from West Bengal deleted a post on X thanking the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for extending the cut-off date.

He later clarified, "The thing is that people who have entered from Bangladesh in West Bengal...will not be deported if they have entered by December 31, 2024. The thing is that if they are not deported, then through the process of naturalisation, they will become citizens of India."

The Citizenship Act, 1955 prescribes citizenship by naturalisation to applicants with an aggregate stay of 11 years in India.

SC has championed the right to dignity through multiple judgments: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Wednesday described human dignity as the "soul of the Constitution" which sources and binds together core values such as personal liberty, freedom to choose, equality and fraternity.

The Supreme Court has championed the right to dignity through multiple judgments to better the lives of women, prisoners, ordinary workers, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised and minority groups over the decades, he said.

Through its interpretations of the value of dignity, the Supreme Court has ensured that the Constitution remained a living instrument, capable of responding to evolving societal challenges while remaining faithful to its foundational values, the CJI said.

Chief Justice Gavai was delivering the keynote address at the 11th Dr. L.M. Singhvi Memorial Lecture on "Human dignity as the soul of the Constitution: judicial reflections in the 21st century".

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, MP; and Vice-Chancellor of the O.P. Jindal Global University C. Raj Kumar spoke on the occasion.

The CJI said the court had intervened to declare human dignity as a "Constitutional value that remains inviolable, even within the confines of incarceration".

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai

'Not just physical survival'

Thus, the court's interventions were not limited to ensuring physical survival of the affected persons, but its verdicts had touched upon broader conditions which would enable the aggrieved and disempowered sections of society to lead a life of self-respect, freedom, and opportunity, he said.

"Human dignity is intrinsically connected to an individual's autonomy and capacity to make decisions about their own life. It encompasses the freedom to exercise choice, personal agency, and self-determination," Chief Justice Gavai said.

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TAMILNADU POLICE DEPARTMENT
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NIT No. E1/469823/2020
In continuation of earlier advertisement, published on **14.08.2025** the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Avinashi Road, Kumar Nagar, Tiruppur - 641 603 Phone : 0421-2240400. invites e-tenders for **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 1200 CCTV CAMERAS IN TIRUPPUR CITY.** with modified dates Tenders Documents may be downloaded from website **http://www.tntenders.gov.in**

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Period of Tender	180 Days
Date of Viewing & Downloading of Tender Documents	05.09.2025 / 11:00 Hrs
Due Date for the submission of E-tender	07.10.2025 / 15:00 Hrs
Opening Date of E-tender	09.10.2025 / 12:00 Hrs
Tender Inviting Authority :	Deputy Commissioner of Police, (HQRS) Tiruppur City.

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E-Procurement Notice No. BP-II/03/2025-26 dt.03.09.2025

1. Nature of Work : Civil, PH & Electrical Works
2. Total No. of Works : 05 Nos.
3. Value of Works : Percentage & Item Rate
4. Bid Security : As per NIT
5. Class of Contractor : As per NIT.
6. Period of Completion : 2 (Two) to 4 (Four) Calendar Months.
7. Other details as follows :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid online		Date, Time & Place of Opening of Tender
Executive Engineer, O.T.D.C.Ltd., Bhubaneswar	BP-II/03/ 2025-26 Dt.03.09.2025	From 08.09.2025	To 22.09.2025	11.30 Hours of dt.23.09.2025 in the office of the Executive Engineer, B.P.Division-II, OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website : www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, O.T.D.C. Ltd., BBSR.
B.P.Division-II (I/c)
CAD-1675 OIPR-37002/11/0111/2526

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DGM (HQ)

INBRIEF

Three killed after SUV rams procession in Chhattisgarh

Three persons were killed and 22 injured when an allegedly inebriated driver drove a sports utility vehicle into a religious procession in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday night, the police said. A large number of people were taking out a procession for the immersion of a Lord Ganesha idol at Jurudand village in the Bagicha police station limits when the vehicle ploughed into the crowd, Senior Superintendent of Police Shashi Mohan Singh told presspersons. Vipin Prajapati, 17, Arvind Kerketta, 19, and Khirovati Yadav, 32, were killed on the spot. The driver of the SUV has been arrested, the police said.

NHRC issues notice to Punjab after dog carries infant's head

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued notice to the Punjab government over an incident where a stray dog was seen carrying the severed head of an infant near the Government Rajindra Hospital in the Patiala district. The Medical Superintendent of the hospital says that no baby has been found missing from the hospital. In all recent cases of deaths of infants, the bodies were handed over to the families after proper documentation, he said. He has reportedly expressed concern that the remains might have been dumped outside the hospital premises by someone. Calling it a serious human rights violation, the commission has asked for a detailed report.

Flyers without mobility issues can pay for wheelchair: DGCA

Proposal aims to curb misuse of wheelchairs, and is part of draft norms released by the authority; the Bombay HC had ordered a committee to examine the issue of wheelchair shortage at airports

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed that airlines offer paid assistance to passengers without mobility issues or disabilities to curb the alleged misuse of wheelchairs. It suggests documentation to verify any physical or mental challenges for free assistance to those with disabilities or restricted mobility.

Airports too will have to ensure that car drop-off points at airport entrances are earmarked for air travellers with special needs, and that these remain unobstructed and available for use, the DGCA suggests. Airports may be required to provide staff at these points to provide assistance and coordinate with airlines.

These proposals are part of revised draft rules for ferrying air travellers with disabilities and reduced mobility floated by the aviation safety regulator for stakeholder comments till September 19. The revised norms have been made public ahead of a Bombay High Court hearing on September 25 after the court appointed a committee in April, headed by Justice Goda Raghuram, former judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, to study the matter of wheelchair availability and challenges faced by senior citizens and those with special needs, emphasising that access to adequate facilities was "a fundamental human right" for such persons.

Easy travel: Airports will have to ensure that car drop-off points at entrances are earmarked for travellers with special needs. ISTOCK

New proposal

Clause 4.1.37 in the draft Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) says, "Airline may levy appropriate assistance fee from passengers other than persons with disability (*Divyangjan*) and persons with reduced mobility who opt to use these services." International airlines such as Singapore Airlines offer "meet and assist services" which include support during boarding, disembarkation, or flight transfers for elderly and non-English speaking passengers or those with sensory impairment or cognitive disabilities as well as help with navigation at large and unfamiliar airports when travellers may not necessarily require wheelchairs.

The move aims to curb misuse of wheelchairs so that the limited inventory with airlines and airports can be made available to those with a genuine need, which is reported by airlines largely on international flights though there are plenty of instances of wheelchair denial on domestic flights as well.

"There needs to be an effort to address infrastructure challenges that include lack of kerbside assistance and ambulifts resulting in wheelchair-borne passengers being carried down a step ladder in a manner that is not only humiliating and uncomfortable but also unsafe. Moreover, not all senior citizens may require or desire a wheelchair, for whom golf carts or buggies must be provided," says Vaishnavi Jayakumar, member, Disability Rights Alliance.

"Just like the highly discriminatory fit-to-fly addition in the last CAR revision, it is ominous that the latest provision appears in a disability-focussed document rather than an overarching passenger facilitation protocol," she said.

Health Ministry plans to ease licence rules for new drugs, trials

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Aimed at promoting ease of doing business in the pharmaceutical and clinical research sectors, the Union Health Ministry is set to amend the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The proposed amendments were published in the Gazette on August 28, seeking public comments.

The amendments aim to simplify the requirements and procedures for obtaining test licences, and for submitting applications related to studies on bioavailability and bioequivalence.

The key highlights of the proposed amendments, according to a release issued by the Health Ministry on Wednesday, includes easing up application processes for test licences, and for studies on bioavailability and bioequivalence.

The changes aims to simplify the process for getting licences.

Notification system

Under the proposed amendment, the present system for test licences has been converted to a notification and intimation system, the statement said.

"Through this, the applicants need not wait for test licences (except a small category of high-risk category drugs) but will need to just intimate the Central Licensing Authority. Additionally, the overall statutory processing time for test licence applications will be reduced from 90 days to 45 days," the Ministry said.

Thus, under the amendment, the existing licence requirement will be dispensed with for certain categories of bioavailability/bioequivalence studies, which may instead be initiated upon the submission of an intimation or notification to the Central Licensing Authority. These regulatory reforms are expected to benefit stakeholders by significantly reducing the timelines for processing applications. They will also reduce the number of applications for test licenses being submitted by approximately 50%.

SRM School of Law to host 'Lexposium' on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The SRM School of Law of the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) is conducting "Lexposium 2025 - The Cradle for Future Jurists", a national-level conclave on Saturday on its campus in Kattankulathur.

The SRM School of Law building will be inaugurated the same day.

The conclave will bring together jurists, senior advocates, and corporate leaders to engage in critical and contemporary discussions on the evolving landscape of law and governance in India.

Legal luminaries

The former Chief Justices of India N.V. Ramana and U.U. Lalit; the former Supreme Court judge Justice Deepak Gupta; and the Supreme Court judge Sanjay Karol will participate.

The conclave will address themes such as judicial reforms and access to justice, ethics in governance

Also present will be the former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi; former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir Gita Mittal; former Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa Chakradhari Sharan Singh; and Justice Anita Sumanth of the High Court of Madras.

The conclave will feature many from the legal and corporate fraternity, including Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior advocate, Supreme Court; Cyril Shroff, managing partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor-General; Pinky Anand, former Additional Solicitor-General; Nalin Kohli, senior advocate, Supreme Court; Pradeep Rai, senior advocate, Supreme Court; Swapna Sundar, senior partner, P.V.S. Giridhar Associates; Jayant Saran, partner, Forensic & Financial Crime Strategy, Risk & Transactions, Deloitte India; and ArunBalaji Alagappan, partner, Forensic and Integrity Services, EY.

Emerging frontiers

The conclave will address themes such as judicial reforms and access to justice, constitutional morality and ethics in governance, the interplay between law, technology, and society, as well as emerging frontiers in corporate law, cybersecurity, and forensic strategies. *The Hindu* is the print media partner.

Registrations are now open for participants on newsth.live/law

Private sector banks play a vital role in nation-building efforts, says FM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that private sector banks played a vital role in nation-building efforts.

Speaking at the 120th foundation day celebrations of City Union Bank (CUB) in Chennai on Tuesday, Ms. Sitharaman said Indian scheduled commercial banks had recorded a massive improvement in their asset quality.

"The macro stress test that we do has shown such results that the scheduled commercial banks' aggregate capital levels will continue to remain above the regulatory minimum even under adverse stress scenarios. Strong and well-capitalised banks with near-record low NPAs mean cheaper, steadier credit for households, MSMEs and infrastructure, lower systemic risks, and sustained confidence in India's financial system, supporting investments, job creation and growth while preserving the stability of industries even amid global downturns and uncertainties," she said.

> The macro stress test that we do has shown such results that the scheduled commercial banks' aggregate capital levels will continue to remain above the regulatory minimum even under adverse stress scenarios
>
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Union Finance Minister

She said the Q1 real GDP registered a growth of 7.8%, beating all estimates and showing good momentum across various sectors.

The Minister said the roll-out of GST reforms would make the economy more open and transparent, with further reduction in compliance burden, making it easier for small businesses to thrive.

She urged banks to not only expand credit but also provide momentum for infrastructure development, ensure timely and need-based funding for MSMEs, bring the unbanked into the fold of formal banking, and meet diverse requirements where the support of banking channels was vital, with trust, technology and transparency being the guiding principles for this transformation.

Addressing the event, President Droupadi Murmu said the Indian economy was among the world's fastest-growing large economies, and the banking industry played a pivotal role in its growth story.

In his welcome address, N. Kamakodi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the CUB, recalled the 120-year legacy of the bank, which was founded in 1904, and its role to the nation-building.

During the event, a book titled *Bank on the Banks of Cauvery* was released. Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment P. Geetha Jeevan, and G. Mahalingam, Non-Executive Chairman, CUB, were among those present.

Trump says India 'kills' U.S. with its heavy tariffs

Press Trust Of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

India "kills" the U.S. with tariffs and the country has now offered "no tariffs", President Donald Trump claimed amid New Delhi's escalating tensions with Washington over trade and tariffs. "They have tariffs against us. China, which kills us with tariffs. India kills us with tariffs. Brazil kills us [with tariffs]," Mr. Trump told a radio show on Tuesday.

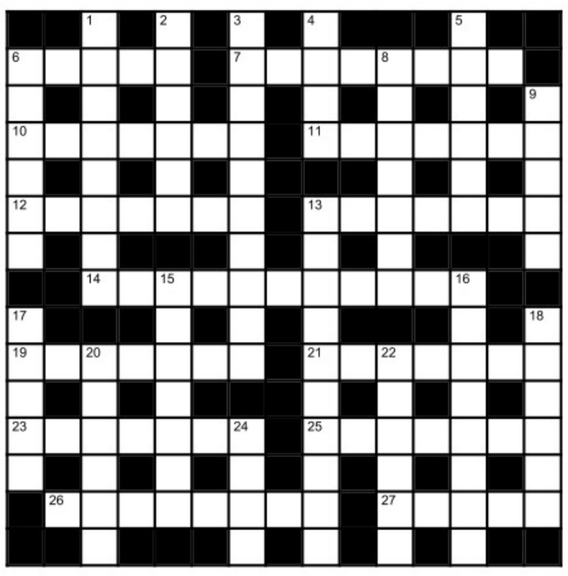
With a federal appeals court ruling that most of Mr. Trump's tariffs imposed on countries around the world are illegal, the U.S. President said that the court case was "sponsored" by other nations because "they are taking advantage of us". "They're not going to take advantage any more," he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14580

(set by Mythical)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Bill hotel company sent back for a specific purpose (2,3)
7 Settle convict at church after firstly ensuring necessary support (8)
10 Harry tries a new wine from Greece (7)
11 Enforce old base rent by the end of June (7)
12 An associate member in NATO perhaps (7)
13 Misplace bottle filled with spurious medication (7)
14 Head of Research involved in scam at Motorola mostly worked in Command Centre (7,4)
19 Armoury is behind short alley going westwards (7)
21 Spooner's raffle could help one while shopping (7)
23 Trust boy to help after Romeo leaves (7)
25 Ignore knight say, at the French court (7)
26 Aristocrat's innumerable tales essentially forgotten (8)
27 Tender noblewoman using resilience, strength,empathy primarily (5)

Down

1 Rant from one rector posturing outside church ultimately (8)
2 Regularly watch this old player's performance (6)
3 Vanessa in Real Madrid? Fantastic! (3,7)
4 Man perhaps discussed passage (4)
5 Book dance club she visited occasionally (6)
6 Sailor on course overseas (6)
8 Leaves associate in Oregon, curiously (7)
9 Taken in by lifelong criminal (5)
13 Pointless debate ultimately about good manners (10)
15 Grandma eager to get durable fabric (7)
16 Tipsy after eating extremely unusual black fruit (8)
17 Arranged Airbnb anonymously for spiritual leader (5)
18 Going back, attempt hiding in towering tree, an evergreen (6)
20 For starters, nightfall obscures murky lagoons, attracting smugglers - on reflection, that's fishy (6)
22 Some priests nag royal about things heard in church (6)
24 Brief affair in plane (4)

SUDOKU

6								5
				8			4	
9	7	1	5				2	3
	6		9		3			
	2	7		5		3	9	
			2		4		6	
1	4				5	7	3	2
	3			6				
8								6

No.SS6631 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

M	O	S	T	L	Y		B	A	L	M	O	R	A	L
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D	A	T	I	V	E		B	L	I	N	K	E	R	S
I		S		E		U		E		D		F		T
A	M	B	U	L	A	N	T		C	A	R	E	E	R
T		A		H		C		B		R		R		E
O	R	C	H	E	S	T	R	A	P	I	T			
R		K		A		I		R		N		V		S
			I	D	I	O	S	Y	N	C	R	A	S	Y
H		S		E		N		T		H		G		M
E	N	C	O	D	E		P	E	R	I	C	A	R	P
R		H		N		M		S		N		R		A
O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L		R	E	L	I	C	T
I		S		S		L				S		E		H
C	A	M	I	S	O	L	E		Y	E	A	S	T	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	9	1	2	3	8	6	4
2	4	3	6	8	7	5	9	1
1	8	6	5	9	4	2	7	3
6	2	4	3	1	8	7	5	9
8	9	1	7	5	6	3	4	2
3	5	7	9	4	2	6	1	8
7	1	2	4	3	5	9	8	6
9	6	8	2	7	1	4	3	5
4	3	5	8	6	9	1	2	7

FAITH

Gajendra story in Ramayana

The story of Gajendra Moksha shows that those who incur the curse of the devotees of God do not go unpunished. Gajendra, the elephant, was once a king. He angered the sage Agasthya, who cursed him to be born as an elephant. The crocodile that caught Gajendra was also once a celestial being. He had pranked and insulted the sage Devala. Both the elephant and the crocodile repented for their mistakes. The sages assured them that Lord Vishnu would relieve and liberate them.

Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman stated in a discourse that poet Kambar, in his work Kamba Ramayanam, used the Gajendra Moksha story as a metaphor in several contexts. In this metaphor, King Dasaratha is likened to an elephant, being held captive by the crocodile Kaikeyi, with his devotion to his promises surpassing his concern for his own life. Similarly, after Rama defeated the demon Viradha, he said he was freed from bondage, just like the elephant released from the crocodile.

Hanuman compared Ravana to the crocodile and Sita to the captive elephant, emphasising that Sita, like Gajendra, was trapped and needed rescue, and Rama would be her liberator. Vibhishana, when telling the tale of Prahlada, recounted that Prahlada's father Hiranyakasipu attempted to harm him using an elephant. Prahlada prayed, recognising the elephant's lineage from Gajendra, whom Lord Narayana had saved, and acknowledging the divine presence within the elephant, which then spared him. Vibhishana himself was likened to Gajendra, and by surrendering at Rama's feet, he was released from Ravana's grasp.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,568	0.51
US Dollar	88.02	0.14
Gold	1,07,070	0.94
Brent oil	67.88	-1.82

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2288.70	14.50
Adani Ports	1332.40	-3.80
Apollo Hosp	7736.00	54.00
Asian Paints	2553.90	13.90
Axis Bank	1054.70	-1.50
Bajaj Auto	9116.00	85.50
Bajaj Finserv	1966.10	10.20
Bajaj Finance	896.30	6.20
Bharat Elec	378.70	2.10
Bharti Airtel	1883.90	-3.30
Cipla	1578.40	9.20
Coal India	389.80	9.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1262.20	8.50
Eicher Motors	6371.50	22.50
Eternal Ltd.	326.10	3.70
Grasim Ind	2781.40	1.60
HCL Tech	1466.10	0.40
HDFC Bank	954.45	9.95
HDFC Life	776.45	-6.30
Hero MotoCorp	5349.00	37.00
Hindalco	742.95	22.00
Hind Unilever	2664.70	-12.30
ICICI Bank	1397.00	2.80
IndusInd Bank	768.10	16.90
Infosys	1479.10	-19.60
ITC	411.75	5.00
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	313.70	1.95
JSW Steel	1072.20	28.20
Kotak Bank	1960.20	17.70
L&T	3600.80	25.90
M&M	3286.00	51.50
Maruti Suzuki	14927.00	85.00
NestleIndia	1194.80	-6.10
NTPC	334.25	-2.05
ONGC	239.07	-0.42
PowerGrid Corp	286.05	-0.65
Reliance Ind	1372.60	6.10
SBI Life	1810.70	-3.80
State Bank	812.15	8.25
Shriram Finance Ltd.	586.30	1.70
Sun Pharma	1578.70	13.50
TataConsumerProduct	1104.40	3.60
Tata Motors	692.05	7.65
Tata Steel	167.85	9.46
TCS	3097.50	-14.00
Tech Mahindra	1508.20	-4.60
Titan	3690.60	70.00
Trent Ltd.	5479.00	67.00
UltraTech Cement	12733.00	3.00
Wipro	249.56	-1.37

Jane Street moves SAT against SEBI in price manipulation case

The firm has sought the Integrated Surveillance Department's full report and SEBI's correspondence with NSE; SAT hearing on September 8

Akshata Gorde
MUMBAI

Counter point: Jane Street said that SEBI abandoned earlier findings by its own investigation team and the NSE. REUTERS

U.S-based high-frequency trading firm Jane Street Group has moved the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) against the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in an ongoing market manipulation case, according to documents reviewed by *businessline*.

The appeal, filed on Wednesday, said SEBI had refused access to "crucial and relevant documents" for the firm's defence.

Jane Street has sought directions for full inspection of records, including the complete report of SEBI's Integrated Surveillance Department (ISD) and all correspondence between the National Stock Exchange and SEBI in relation to its trades.

Jane Street said SEBI abandoned earlier findings by its own investigation team and the NSE, which had found no price manipulation. Despite the ISD's conclusion not to pursue the matter further, the regulator had reversed its stance without explanation, the firm said.

"In more than 90% of the patches, it could not be established that the trading activity of Jane Street Group has been attributed to the price movement of the constituents/index in a way that has benefited the open positions of other Group members in the derivatives segment," Jane Street said in its appeal, quoting the ISD's December 2024 findings.

Further, in the five instances where index prices moved in their favour, the gains were negligible, it said. SAT has listed the matter for hearing on September 8. Neither Jane Street nor SEBI replied to a request for clarification on the matter.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'SEBI framework on intraday position limit will stop manipulation'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

'A lower intraday cap would have constrained trading activity and hurt liquidity'

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) framework to increase intraday position limits of index equity derivatives at an entity level will enhance monitoring and makes manipulation difficult, experts said.

"A lower intraday cap would have constrained trading activity and hurt liquidity. The chosen limit gives market makers and institutional players the room to operate while keeping everything within clearly monitored boundaries," said Feroze Azeez, Joint CEO, Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd.

"This blocks the potential for a big player to manipulate the market and makes it difficult to distort price discovery," said Yogesh Chande, a securities lawyer and partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas.

The regulator also decided to monitor the position limits of single entities in real time.

"Real-time monitoring provides an accurate picture of the exposure and helps build trust and confidence, making the market fairer with better risk at any particular point in time on a given day," said Mr. Chande.

Moreover, the risk exposure of open interest will be calculated based on a new delta-based method, which is a more risk-weighted view of options contract.

"Delta-based approach weighs each position by its delta value, thus reflecting the true economic exposure of the market. Hence, this approach recognises the reality that not all contracts are created equal or have equal risks. The revised approach also protects retail investors and avoids exploitation of the existing framework, as it comprehends and visualises the risk involved more accurately," said Mr. Chande.

INBRIEF

Services PMI hits 15-year high on sharp rise in new orders

Services sector growth touched a 15-year high in August, driven by a sharp rise in new orders and output, amid substantial improvement in demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday, adding that panel members signalled greater demand from clients in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index was up from 60.5 in July to 62.9 in August, indicating the steepest rate of expansion since June 2010. PTI

India, EFTA trade pact to come into force from Oct. 1

The free trade agreement between India and four-European nation bloc EFTA, which will come into force from October 1, will have legally binding provisions, Switzerland said on Wednesday. "For the first time, India has laid down legally binding provisions on trade and sustainable development in a free trade agreement," it said in a statement. The European Free Trade Association members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. PTI

Govt. sets up panel to study manufacturing sector issues

The government has set up a committee to examine the tax and export clearance issues being faced by manufacturing units and suggest measures to further streamline the system amid high tariffs imposed by the U.S., an official said. The committee includes representatives from the finance ministry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Department of Commerce, DGFT, and RBI. PTI

Cabinet approves ₹1,500 cr. scheme for critical minerals recycling

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved a ₹1,500-crore incentive scheme to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.

Recycling of critical minerals entails recovery of critical minerals from end-of-life products such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements. The incentive would form part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which seeks to build domestic capacity and supply chain resilience in critical minerals.

Set with a tenure of six years from FY2025-26 to 2030-31, e-waste, lithium-ion battery (LIB) scrap, and other stock as catalytic convertors in end-of-life vehicles would qualify as eligible feedstock.

The scheme earmarks one-third of the total outlay to small and new beneficiaries although beneficiaries may include both large and established recyclers. The government has specified that incentives would be accorded to eligible entities for investments in new units as well as for expansion, modernisation or diversification of existing units.

Incessant rains, extreme cold wreak havoc on coffee heartland

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

A black rot-affected Arabica coffee plant. BY ARRANGEMENT

India's coffee heartland, comprising Chikmagaluru, Coorg and Hassan districts of Karnataka, has been pounded by incessant rains, besides extreme cold weather and lack of sunlight in more than three months, resulting in heavy damage to coffee plantations and an estimated production loss of up to 30%, according to the Karnataka Planters Association (KPA).

Arvind Rao, Chairman, Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA) said the unrelenting rains have wreaked havoc for coffee growers in the coffee heartland of the country.

"Coffee berry droppings and black rot disease [fungal] have become uncontrollable due to heavy rainfall. Growers are unable to spray fungicide to control the disease due to non-stop rains for months. In this scenario, we are expecting crop loss in the range of 20-30%."

Early and excessive monsoon has hit the plantations when the blossom fruit setting itself was much below expectations this year in most coffee-growing areas, due to long-stayed summer showers during April and May, Mr. Rao explained.

Sahadev Balakrishna, Coffee Committee Chairman, United Planters' Association of South India (UPASI), said, continuous rain for over the last three months has drastically affected plantations.

"The growers were unable to take up timely plant protection measures. So the incidence of black rot, leaf rot, fruit rot, berry drop and stalk rot has increased. We expect a drop in crop as both Arabica and Robusta have been affected. The net impact will be known after a few weeks," he added.

B. Shivakumaraswamy, Joint Director, Coffee Board confirmed that this year premature berry drop was higher than usual due to continuous rains.

As per Coffee Board's post-blossom estimate for 2025-26, the country was likely to produce 4,03,000 metric tonnes of coffee, comprising 1,18,125 (MT) of arabica and 2,84,875 (MT).

The coffee region has already received 20% excess rain compared with the annual average, and more rains are forecast throughout September, said Bose Mandanna, member, Coffee Board.

RIR Power to begin commercial production of semicon chips in March, says Odisha IT official

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet had approved manufacturing units in four states, including Odisha

RIR Power Electronics Ltd. is expected to commence "full-fledged" commercial production of electronic chips by March next year, Principal Secretary in the Electronics and Information Technology Department of the Government of Odisha Vishal Dev told *The Hindu*.

In an interaction on the sidelines of Semicon India 2025, Mr. Dev stated that production in two other projects – SiCSem and 3D Glass Solutions (3DGS) – is expected to begin in another two years.

Commencement of commercial production at the semiconductor maker's Bhubaneswar plant is of immense significance to the eastern Indian State, he said. RIR Power, on Monday, received ₹32.56 crore for phase one of their silicon carbide manufacturing plant in the state's capital. Spanning across two phases, the project is worth about ₹618 crore.

The Union Cabinet on August 12 had approved semicon manufacturing units in four states, including Odisha, at a combined outlay of ₹4,600 crore. SiCSem and 3D Glass are to be set up in the State.

The former is collaborating with Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd. (U.K.) to build the first commercial compound fab in the country, while the latter would be setting up a vertically integrated advanced packaging and embedded glass substrate unit at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar.

Urban Company IPO to open on Sept. 10

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Consumer services provider Urban Company Ltd. has fixed a price band of ₹98 to ₹103 per share for its upcoming ₹1,900 crore initial public offering (IPO).

Investors can bid for one lot of 145 shares and in multiples of 145 thereafter.

The company said it will raise fresh capital of ₹472 crore and offer shares worth ₹1,428 crore for sale, assuming the shares are subscribed at the upper limit of the price band.

Bids will open on September 10 and close on September 12. Anchor investor bidding will open on September 9.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - PROCUREMENT & OPERATIONS OF BREACH ATTACK SIMULATION & CONTINUOUS AUTOMATED RED TEAMING TOOL

BID NO: GEM/2025/B/6633729 DATED 01.09.2025

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — **TENDER NOTICE**

ADV No.32/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No. 28 /SE-III/TTD/ 2025 -26 dt:01-09- 2025

Name of work: (1) Construction of Entrance 7 Storied Maha Rajagopuram, Arjithaseva Mandapam, Addala Mandapam, Vahana Mandapam, Radha Mandapam, Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Pushkarini and Flooring between inner Prakaram to Outer Prakaram at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Venkatapalem (V), Thullur (M), Guntur District Amaravathi, Capital area of A,P. (Part-D) **Amount:4800.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion: 24 months.**

NOTE: For full details log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.202) Date:03-09-2025 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Advt. No. 05/2025 — Date: 04/09/2025

Notification For Engagement of Contractual Positions for Information Scientist in Head Office, New Delhi and Assistant Librarian in Various Campuses of Central Sanskrit University for the Academic Session 2025-2026

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Contractual engagement of Information Scientist in Head Office, New Delhi and Assistant Librarian in Various Campuses of Central Sanskrit University. For detailed notification regarding eligibility criteria, selection process and submission of applications etc., please visit the University's website under Recruitment Tab at www.sanskrit.nic.in Last date for submission of application is **15/09/2025 till 11:59 PM.**

REGISTRAR (I/c)

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWE DN. FATEHPUR, SIKAR
(email : eefatehpur@rediffmail.com, eefatehpur.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in)

No.:- 631 — Date:- 22.08.2025

Notice Inviting Bid No. 05/2025-26

Bids for 22 (Twenty Two Nos) Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 25.08.2025 to 15.09.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portel (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1790.98 Lac.

NIB No. PWD2526A2844
UBN No. PWD2526WSOB10626 to PWD2526WSOB10637, PWD2526WSOB10639, PWD2526WSOB10642 to PWD2526WSOB10650

DIPR/C/12522/2025 — Executive Engineer, PWD Dn. Fatehpur

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Fuelling Sustainable Growth

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in".**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer

No.:-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-1928 — Date:-22.08.2025

NIB No.:-PWD2526A2837

Notice Inviting Bid No. 13/2025-26

Bids for 07 No. Work are invited from interested bidders **upto 5.00 P.M. on Monday 15 September 2025**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 18205.20 Lacs.**

UBN No.:-PWD2526WLOB10584, PWD2526WLOB10586, PWD2526WLOB10587, PWD2526WLOB10588, PWD2526WLOB10589, PWD2526WSOB10590 & PWD2526WLOB10591.

(E Sign), Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer.

DIPR/C/12511/2025

ONGC ENERGY. Now AND Next — ओएनजीसी — ONGC

Expression of Interest(EOI) Notification

ONGC invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Indian firms for Design, Implementation and Commissioning of an Enterprise Real-Time Monitoring System (RTMS) & IoT Hub at ONGC, New Delhi.

The system will consolidate real-time well and process monitoring data from diverse IoT gateways, cloud platforms, and servers into a secure, fault-tolerant architecture with OPC UA server data integration.

Eligibility: Firms with proven expertise in large-scale IoT/RTMS projects, real-time data systems, OPC UA integration, secure architecture, and handling high-frequency data ingestion.

Submission: Interested parties must submit their EOI with credentials, technical proposal, budgetary quotation as per format within 15 days from the date of this notice in sealed envelope to the address below.

Addressed to: Head OT, Corporate Infocom Services, ONGC R01, 11th Floor, Core-4, SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 Email: head_scada@ongc.co.in, mishra_suraj@ongc.co.in For more details, visit: **tenders.ongc.co.in**

ARMY COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, SECUNDERABAD
TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed and separate Tenders are invited by **24 Sep 2025** upto 12.00Hrs for construction of PG block for Army College of Dental Sciences, Secunderabad, India.
2. College premises may be seen by interested agencies / firms between 09.30 AM to 03.30 PM on any working day.
3. The detailed terms and conditions may be obtained on cash payment of Rs. 11,800/- (Non Refundable)/ download from College website **(http://acds.edu.in)** and Cost of Tender documents of Rs. 11,800 be deposited in the form of Demand draft (In favour of ACDS CAPITAL FUND), Secunderabad, including GST) alongwith documents for Technical Bid.

Contact Mobile : 9281422911 — **REGISTRAR ACDS**

SAGARMALA — भारत सरकार Government of India
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File No. ALHW/ADM/1/1/2025-ESTT-HO — Date:02/09/2025

The Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works(ALHW), Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Island, is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Port, Shipping & Water ways, inviting applications for filling up the following posts on deputation basis.

Sl. No	Post Name & vacancies	Published in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar
1.	Chief Engineer& Administrator -01 post	16-22 August 2025
2.	Senior Scientist - 01 post	
3.	Executive Engineer (Civil)- 04 posts	
4.	Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil)- 01 past	09-15 August 2025

For eligibility criteria, Annexure and others terms and conditions please visit link: andssw1.and.nic.in/alhw. The last date for receipt of application within 60 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.

Sd/- Administrative Officer (ALHW)

KERALA STATE IT MISSION

Kerala State IT Mission
Department of Electronics & IT,
Government of Kerala
Website: http://www.itmission.kerala.gov.in/

TENDER NOTICE

Request for Proposal for System Integrator for the "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Security Orchestration and Automated Response (SOAR), UEBA, Threat Intelligence Platform, Network detection and response (NDR) Solutions and the management of the State SOC"

Tender ID: 2025_KSITM_794318_1
Tender Reference No. CERT-K/9/2025-KSITM

Detailed Notification and RFP documents may be downloaded from
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/
D3/662/2025/I&PRD

KHARTOUM

Sudan recovers 270 bodies after landslide that wiped out a village

AP

Rescue teams have recovered 270 bodies from under the mud after a landslide buried a remote mountain village in Sudan's Darfur region and killed more than 1,000 inhabitants, the rebel group that controls the area said. Heavy rain triggered the landslip which wiped out the village of Tarasin in the Jebel Marra range. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump welcomes Polish President for talks dominated by Ukraine

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump hosted new Polish President Karol Nawrocki on Wednesday for talks focused on the war in Ukraine. Mr. Nawrocki, a fervent Trump supporter, had initially visited the Mr. Trump to seek his backing during the Polish election campaign, and is now returning for his first foreign visit as President. AFP

QUETTA

Suicide bombing kills 11 at political rally in southwestern Pakistan

AP

At least 11 persons were killed on Tuesday evening when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a political rally in Balochistan. At least 40 people were wounded in the explosion, which took place in the provincial capital Quetta where hundreds of members of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) had gathered. AFP

BEIRUT

UN force in Lebanon slams Israeli drone attack on peacekeepers

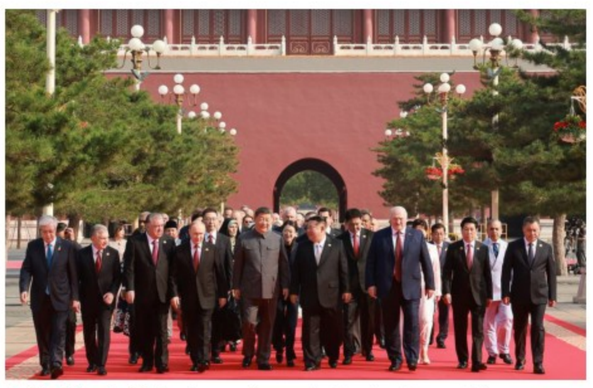
REUTERS

The United Nations said on Wednesday that Israeli drones dropped four grenades near peacekeepers in Lebanon, which the Israeli military said was not "intentional fire" at UNIFIL personnel. "One grenade impacted within 20 m and three within 100 m of UN personnel and vehicles," it added, reporting no casualties. AFP

Xi displays China's military prowess as Russia, N. Korea leaders watch on

The event was held to mark the 80th anniversary of China's victory in the Second World War and witnessed the unveiling of a host of weapons, including nuclear-capable ICBMs and hypersonic missiles; Trump says he is 'disappointed' with Putin

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh
BEIJING



United front: Xi Jinping, centre, and other leaders walk to Tiananmen Rostrum in Beijing on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Humanity is faced with a choice of peace or war, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday as Beijing marked the 80th anniversary of its victory in the Second World War, with a military parade presided over by Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and others at Tiananmen Square.

The show of strength by China's People's Liberation Army also witnessed the unveiling of a host of weapons, including nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles and hypersonic missiles.

The events began with Mr. Xi greeting the world leaders. Most of the world leaders had stayed back after the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin over the weekend, while Mr. Kim arrived on Tuesday evening with his daughter, whose details are being kept private. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto arrived early morning on Wednesday after his trip was initially put on hold over riots in his country.

Among the nuclear-capable missiles unveiled at the parade was the liquid-fuelled intercontinental strategic nuclear DF-5C, capable of striking "anywhere in the world". While few details are available on its range and other capabilities, its predecessor has a range of more than 12,000 km. The air-launched JL-1 and submarine-launched JL-3 missiles completed Beijing's display of nuclear capabilities across land, air, and sea. Long-range hypersonic anti-ship missiles were also unveiled at the event

Speaking to a radio station, U.S. President Donald Trump, following the parade, said he was "very disappointed" with Mr. Putin, as the former's promises for peace in Ukraine remain unattained. Mr. Trump also alleged a "conspiracy" against the U.S.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Kim also had a formal bilateral meeting, in which the Russian President praised the bravery of North Korean soldiers who fought alongside Moscow's troops to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk.

(The writer is in China on an invitation from the China Public Diplomacy Association)

At least 21,000 children disabled in Gaza war: UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Dire straits: Around 40,500 children have suffered 'new war-related injuries' in the nearly two years since the war erupted. AFP

At least 21,000 children in Gaza have been disabled since the war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7, 2023, a United Nations committee said on Wednesday.

Around 40,500 children have suffered "new war-related injuries" in the nearly two years since the war erupted, with more than half of them left disabled, said the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Reviewing the situation in the Palestinian territories, it said Israeli evacuation orders during the Army's offensive in Gaza were "often inaccessible" to people with hearing or visual impairments, "rendering evacuation impossible".

"Reports also described people with disabilities being forced to flee in unsafe and undignified conditions, such as crawling through mud without mobility assistance," it said.

Meanwhile the committee said the restrictions on humanitarian aid being brought into the Gaza Strip were disproportionately impacting the disabled. "People with disabilities faced severe disruptions in assistance, leaving many without food, clean water, or sanitation and dependent on others for survival," it said.

The committee said 83% of disabled people had lost their assistive devices, with most unable to afford alternatives such as donkey carts.

Iran increased uranium stock before Israeli strikes: IAEA

Associated Press
VIENNA

A confidential report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog circulated to member states said on Wednesday that Iran increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels before Israel launched its military attack on June 13. The report said that as of June 13, Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60%, an increase of 32.3 kg since the IAEA's last report in May. The report stated that this figure is "based on the information provided by Iran, agency verification activities between 17 May 2025 and 12 June 2025, and estimates based on the past operation."

Brent Christensen appointed new U.S. envoy to Bangladesh

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Brent Christensen

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated Brent Christensen, career member of the Senior Foreign Service, as the new U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh. The appointment came as Bangladesh continues to deal with political uncertainties as the interim administration led by Chief Adviser Prof. Mohammed Yunus prepares to hold elections in February 2026.

"Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh," stated an announcement from the White House. Mr. Christensen has extensive experience regarding Bangladesh, as he has served as Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs during 2019-21 at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh during the first tenure of Mr. Trump. He has also served as Bangladesh Country Offer in the State Department.

Mr. Christensen also served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) from August 2022-January 2025. The post of the U.S. Ambassador in Dhaka has played an important role in the country's affairs. Peter Haas, the Ambassador of the U.S. under the Biden administration put pressure on the Sheikh Hasina government in 2023 to hold transparent elections in Bangladesh. On June 8, 2022, Mr. Haas hit the headlines by meeting Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh and by demanding that citizens of Bangladesh should be able to choose their leaders freely. Mr. Haas also held talks with political parties that were facing crackdown from the Awami League government.

U.S. judge rules that Google does not have to sell Chrome in antitrust victory

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Google is accused of striking deals with smartphone manufacturers to establish it as the default search engine on phones. REUTERS

A U.S. judge on Tuesday rejected the government's demand that Google sell its Chrome web browser as part of a major antitrust case, but imposed sweeping requirements to restore competition in online search.

The landmark ruling came after Judge Amit Mehta found in August 2024 that Google illegally maintained monopolies in online search through exclusive distribution agreements worth billions of dollars annually.

Google vice-president of regulatory affairs Lee-Anne Mulholland said the company has "concerns" about how court-imposed requirements to share search data and limit distribution of services will affect user privacy.

However, Tuesday's decision fell short of expectations from some observers who had anticipated more radical changes to Google.

The U.S. government had pushed for Chrome's divestment, contending the browser serves as a crucial gateway to Internet activity and facilitates a third of all Google web searches.

But in his ruling, Mehta warned that a Chrome divestiture "would be incredibly messy and highly risky" and said U.S. attorneys had overreached.

The case focused on Google's expensive distribution agreements, paying billions for Apple, Samsung, and other smartphone manufacturers to establish Google as the default search engine on iPhones and other devices.

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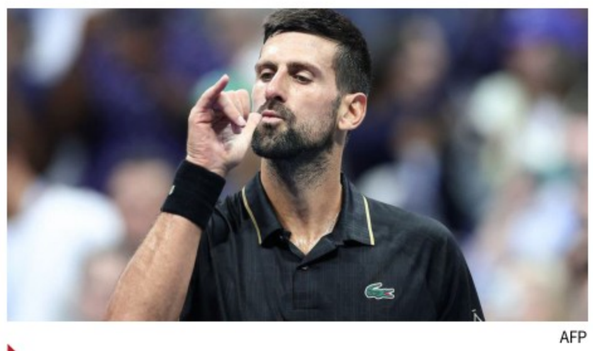
CLOSE CALL

It was really anybody's match: Djokovic on his win over Fritz



AFP

In this kind of match a few points on either side decide the winner. It was an incredibly close match. It was really anybody's match. I thought I was really lucky to save some crucial break points in the second set. I think for most of the second and third sets he (Taylor Fritz) was the better player — Novak Djokovic

WINNING START

India defeats Bahrain in AFC u-23 Asian Cup qualifiers

AIFF

India began its AFC under-23 Asian Cup qualifiers on a winning note with a 2-0 victory over Bahrain at the Suheim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha on Wednesday. Muhammed Suhail struck the first goal in the 32nd minute before Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh netted an injury-time goal (90+5) for the Blue Colts.

DRAWING FIRST BLOOD

Kamindu Mendis helps Lanka edge Zimbabwe in first T20I

X@OFFICIALSLC

Kamindu Mendis' 16-ball unbeaten 41 helped Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in the first T20I in Harare on Wednesday. **The scores:** Zimbabwe 175/7 in 20 overs (Bennett 81, Raza 28, Chameera 3/30) lost to Sri Lanka 177/6 in 19.1 overs (Nissanka 55, Kusal 38, Kamindu 41 n.o., Ngarava 2/19). **Toss:** SL; **PoM:** Kamindu.

ON A ROLL

Paltan prevails over Warriorz, makes it a hat-trick of victories

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan continued its dominance in the Pro Kabaddi League with a 45-36 win over Bengal Warriorz — its third successive victory — in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. For Paltan, skipper Aslam Inamdar and Aditya Shinde scored 11 each. Haryana Steelers edged U Mumba 7-6 in the tie-breaker after the match ended 36-36.

Wasteful India escapes with a draw in its first Super 4s fixture

The host fails to convert all six PCs against defending champion Korea; Malaysia gets past China in another encounter

ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Vital strike: Mandeep drew level for India in the final quarter. R.V. MOORTHY

If missed chances could write a story, they would write a glorious one for the Indian men's hockey team. Instead, the players would have been left ruing the multitude of opportunities they wasted in a hard-fought 2-2 draw with defending champion Korea in its first Super 4s game of the Asia Cup at the Rajgir Sports Complex here on Wednesday.

Starting an hour later than scheduled because of a short but heavy spell of rain that led to puddles and forced the players off the turf, the game was clearly more about who adjusted better to the difficult conditions. And India proved more than able, on the attack from the beginning and creating chances early on including a penalty corner in the second minute itself.

But Manpreet, usually foolproof in the set-pieces, had a poor stop and then tried to take a shot himself, hitting wide. It was a sign of things to come for the Indians. A couple of PCs five minutes later were similarly wasted before Sukhjeet snatched the ball at the half line and put through Hardik Singh, who cleaved the middle of the turf to enter the circle and slam home for the lead.

The match turned in the 12th minute when Korea sought a PC, but the TV umpire awarded a penalty stroke instead for Jugraj Singh's deliberate push on Seyong Oh before receiving inside the circle. Jihun Yang duly converted to level and, two minutes later, Hyeonhong Kim smashed in the first of Korea's two PCs to go ahead.

The next 45 minutes was a script that is getting eerily familiar here – missed chances, poor finishing, a second too late in passing inside the circle, a little too casual in the attack and a second too much in hurry to take the shot, refusing to take the extra second to compose and get into the right position.

At least 12 times through the game unmarked Indian forwards had a clear sight at goal but were off target. The tireless midfield of Hardik, Vivek, Rajinder and Manpreet kept them feeding and Abhishek, Sukhjeet and Dilpreet missed repeatedly. India also earned six PCs, not converting any. Credit should also go to Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim, deservedly named Man-of-the-Match.

The second half was almost entirely played in the Korean half, partly forced by the relentless Indian attack and partly by the Koreans' patience to sit back and defend their slim lead. But something had to give and it finally did, Mandeep placed perfectly to tap in Sukhjeet's put-through in the 53rd minute to equalise, much to the relief of both the Indian team management and the crowd. But with Malaysia up next on Thursday, the players have less than 24 hours to get their bodies, and more importantly, minds sorted.

The results:

Super 4s: Malaysia 2 (Syed Cholan 45, Akhimullah Anuar 47) bt China 0; India 2 (Hardik Singh 8, Mandeep Singh 53) drew with Korea 2 (Jihun Yang 12, Hyeonhong Kim 14).

5-8: Japan 2 (Ryosuke Shinohara 5, 11) bt Taiwan 0.

All eyes on Shreyas as West meets Central; South up against North in the other semifinal

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The omission of Shreyas Iyer from the India T20 squad for the upcoming Asia Cup caused considerable furore and debate. Shreyas was expected to add weight to India's middle-order, but the selectors thought otherwise.

Having missed the flight to the United Arab Emirates, the Mumbai batter finds himself in the less glamorous domestic circles.

Shreyas is the main attraction in the West Zone line-up, which takes on Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinal at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here on Thursday.

This will mark Shreyas' first competitive appearance since leading Punjab Kings in the IPL 2025 final. Shreyas will have young southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal for company in the West Zone dressing room.

Like Shreyas, Jaiswal did not make the cut for the Asia Cup, and will look to pile on the runs to stay on the selectors' radar.

The likes of Rajat Patidar, Shubham Sharma and Danish Malewar lie in wait on the other side.

The trio made merry with big scores in the quarterfinal against a weak North East Zone.

In the spotlight: The semifinal will mark Shreyas' first competitive appearance since the IPL 2025 final. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Central Zone will be without left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who has been called up for India duty.

In the other semifinal, South Zone – beneficiary of a direct last-four spot alongside West Zone – takes on North Zone.

Karnataka's Devdutt Padikkal and Tamil Nadu's N. Jagadeesan spearhead the batting unit, backed by Kerala's Mohammed Azharuddeen and Salman Nizar.

Seamer V. Koushik, who recently shifted allegiance to Goa from Karnataka, could prove to be a handful with the new ball.

South Zone will be wary of North Zone fast bowler Auqib Nabi, who took four wickets in four balls in the previous round against East Zone.

Ankit Kumar, Ayush Badoni and Yash Dhull, all of whom stuck gold against East Zone, form the backbone of a strong batting line-up.

PlayCom Summit to feature innovation expo

Sports Bureau

The Hindu Group's *Sportstar* and global consulting firm KPMG India are set to co-host the PlayCom 2025: Business of Sports Summit on September 12 and 13 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The two-day Summit seeks to build on *Sportstar*'s five-decade-worth experience of telling stories that matter in sport to shaping the conversation around sport as an economic and social driver.

Distinguished speakers

The Summit, brought to you by Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation and Government of Punjab, will feature a host of distinguished speakers from sporting and business spheres.

Eminent names include the Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the India Olympic Association (IOA) President P.T. Usha, IITI Sports Institute Co-Founder Daniel Pinto Coma, Microsoft-backed sports innovations expert Iris Cordoba, Cricviz's Head of Insight Ben Jones, the former International Olympic Committee and Twitter Partnerships head Aneesh Madani among others.

Giants of the Indian sports industry like IPL chairman Arun Dhumal and NBA India's strategy head Rajah Chaudhry also feature in the conference.

PlayCom 2025 also features an innovation expo which seeks to provide a platform for India-born innovations and entrepreneurs in the sporting arena – from manufacturers and suppliers to analytical entities and sporting franchises.

SPORTSTAR × KPMG
PLAYCOM
BUSINESS OF SPORTS SUMMIT | 2025

Djokovic sets up showdown with Alcaraz; Yuki-Venus in last eight

US OPEN

Agencies
NEW YORK

Slugfest: Djokovic was stretched by Fritz before emerging winner in four sets. GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic advanced to a blockbuster US Open showdown with Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday as reigning women's champion Aryna Sabalenka vaulted into the semifinals without having to lift her racquet.

Djokovic snuffed out Taylor Fritz's hopes of becoming the first American man to win a Grand Slam singles title since 2003 with a 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 quarterfinal victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. The win sent the 38-year-old Serbian – chasing a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title – into a mouthwatering semifinal against Spanish second seed Alcaraz on Friday.

Djokovic clinched victory when fourth seed Fritz double-faulted on match point in the 10th game of the final set.

Djokovic will meet Alcaraz with the 22-year-old Spaniard in blistering form. The five-time Grand Slam champion needed just one hour and 56 minutes to seal a convincing 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka.

In the women's draw, World No.1 and defending champion Sabalenka moved into the semifinals after Czech quarterfinal opponent Marketa Vondrousova pulled out with a knee injury.

The walkover sets up a repeat of last year's US Open final in the last four, with Sabalenka facing American fourth seed Jessica Pegula on Thursday.

India's Yuki Bhambri stormed into his maiden Grand Slam quarterfinals in the men's doubles alongside his Kiwi partner Michael Venus.

Yuki and Venus beat the No. 4 seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz of Germany 6-4, 6-4 in one hour and 23 minutes. They will take on 11th seeds, Croatia's Nikola Mektic and American veteran Rajeev Ram.

Meanwhile, the promising Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi gave a scare to second seed Hannah Klugman of Britan before going down in the girls' singles second round 7-6(1), 4-6, 6-3. She battled for two hours and two minutes.

The results (Quarterfinals):

Men: 2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 20-Lehecka (Cze) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt 4-Fritz (USA) 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) w/o; 4-Pegula (USA) bt Krejcikova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3.

Men: Doubles (pre-quarters): Yuki & Venus bt 4-Krawietz & Puetz (Ger) 6-4, 6-4.

Injured Jhingan to miss rest of the tournament

CAFA NATIONS CUP

Press Trust of India
HISOR (TAJIKISTAN)

Star Indian defender Sandesh Jhingan has been ruled out of the rest of the CAFA Nations Cup matches after sustaining an injury during the team's 0-3 defeat to Iran here.

The injury to the 32-year-old stalwart is a big blow for India as it takes on a strong Afghanistan side in its third and final Group-B match on Thursday.

The standings

India is currently placed second in the four-team group with three points from two games after a thrilling win against host Tajikistan, which was followed by a defeat to Asian giant and World No. 20 Iran on Monday.

Iran on top

Iran is leading the pool with six points following an all-win record.

India's hopes of advancing in the tournament hinge on the match against Afghanistan. "Jhingan had sustained an injury during the match against Iran, and has been ruled out of the remaining matches. He will return to India today," the All India Football Federation posted on X on Wednesday.

Jhingan's absence is a big blow for India. FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

World No. 133 India had scored through defenders Anwar Ali and Jhingan to upset the 106th-ranked Tajikistan in its opening match.

Crucial assignment

The eight-team tournament is vital for India as it prepares for the Asian Cup qualifying round matches against Singapore on October 9 and 14.

INBRIEF

Want to be 'Captain Cool' like Dhoni, says Sana

Pakistan women's cricket team captain Fatima Sana draws inspiration from India's World Cup-winning skipper M.S. Dhoni and aspires to become 'Captain Cool' like him, as she prepares to lead her side to the 50-over World Cup later this month. "I have seen his matches as India and CSK captain. His on-field decision-making, calmness and the way he backs his players, there is a lot to learn from that. When I got the captaincy, I thought that I have to become like Dhoni. I also watched his interviews and got to learn a lot," she said.

SA picks teen keeper-batter Meso in World Cup squad

Seventeen-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Karabo Meso on Wednesday earned her maiden call-up to South Africa's 15-member squad for the ICC Women's World Cup starting later this month in India and Sri Lanka. Meso, who debuted for the senior side against Sri Lanka in T20Is in March this year, has played two ODIs and five T20Is so far.

The squad: Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Ayabonga Khaka, Chloe Tryon, Nadine de Klerk, Marizanne Kapp, Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafta (wk), Nonkululeko Mlaba, Annerie Dercksen, Anneke Bosch, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Karabo Meso (wk), Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase.
Travelling reserve: Miane Smit.

Olympic Solidarity funding programme is back

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the resumption of the Olympic Solidarity programme of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a release on Wednesday. The IOA said that the IOC had commended the positive steps taken in India to strengthen the sporting ecosystem and support athletes at every level, especially through the National Sports Governance Act. Indian athletes would stand to benefit through direct funding and development opportunities from the IOC towards their training, preparation and participation in the Olympic Games and other major international competitions. We sincerely thank the IOC for its continued trust, support and guidance," said the IOA president, P.T. Usha.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Men's Asia Cup, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30, 5 p.m.; Malaysia vs India, 7.30 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 2nd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
US Open: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.

TNCA President's XI's final entry proves just a formality

Left-arm spinner Vidyuth gets it right on the last day as Jammu & Kashmir concedes the match after getting bundled out for 230 against the host's first-innings total of 567 decl.

BUCHI BABU

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Left-arm spinner P. Vidyuth's seven for 73 helped TNCA President's XI bowl out Jammu & Kashmir for 230 and secure a huge 337-run first-innings lead on day four of the Buchi Babu tournament semifinal at the CSK High Performance Centre here on Wednesday.

After J&K collapsed from its overnight 212 for four, it conceded the match as TNCA President's XI progressed to the final.

There was considerable turn and bounce for the spinners on the third day, when Vidyuth had claimed three wickets.

On the fourth day, he opened his tally with a classic left-arm spinner's dismissal – he had Dikshant Kundal (1) bowled off a delivery that pitched on middle, turned, and hit the top of the off-stump.

Abid Mushtaq (duck) played off his hip to be caught at leg-slip as Vidyuth claimed his second five-for of this edition.

Opener Yawar Hassan, who had dug in for 84 (204b, 10x4), was trapped plumb in front off a ball that pitched on middle and straightened.

Sunil Kumar (duck), the last wicket to fall, was bowled off a delivery that kept low and went with the arm.

Another left-arm tweaker, Vanshaj Sharma, who had injured his bowling shoulder on the field on Tuesday, was absent hurt.

The scores (semifinal, fourth and final day):

At CSK-HPC: TNCA President's XI 567/9 decl. bt Jammu & Kashmir 230 in 74 overs (Yawar Hassan 84, Abdul Samad 75, P. Vidyuth 7/73). *J&K conceded the match after losing the first-innings race.*

At IC-Guru Nanak: Hyderabad 225 & 254 bt Haryana 208 & 181 in 62.4 overs (Himanshu Rana 46, Nitin Sai 7/44).

Final: Sept. 6 to 9: TNCA President's XI vs. Hyderabad, CSK-HPC.

Relentless: Vidyuth made full use of the favourable conditions to claim a seven-for. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Echoes Of Time primed to deliver in feature

MYSURU: Echoes Of Time is expected to score in the Srikantadatta Narasimharaajawadiyar Memorial Multi Million (1,400m), the feature event of the opening day races to be held here on Thursday (Sept. 4). There will be no false rails.

1 SEASON OPENER PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Super Sexy (4) Noorulla 61, 2. Star Symphony (11) J. Paswan 60.5, 3. Turkoman (9) L.A. Rozario 60, 4. Absolute Katrina (12) J. Chinoy 58.5, 5. Phoenix Surprise (5) Arvind K 58, 6. Eye The Mind (2) S. Imran 57.5, 7. Country's Fire (8) R. Shiva K 56, 8. Gentleman's Word (7) N. Ramesh K 56, 9. D Admiral (6) R. Robert 55.5, 10. Astrologer (1) A. Baandal 55, 11. Natural Fly (3) H. Rahul 54 and 12. Dark Chocolate (10) P. Sai Kumar 53.
1. PHOENIX SURPRISE, 2. TURKOMAN, 3. ABSOLUTE KATRINA

2 VARADA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Code Of Honour (7) Dhanu S 60, 2. Eagle Bluff (3) Kuldeep S 59.5, 3. Elevado (4) Ayaz Khan 59.5, 4. King Scarface (6) S.G. Prasad 58.5, 5. Anushtubha (12) Antony 58, 6. Break Away (1) S. Imran 58, 7. Noble Pursuit (9) H. Rahul 58, 8. Glowing Moonlights (5) Asirvatham 57.5, 9. Saffron Breeze (2) Faiz 57, 10. D Don King (11) Gagandeep Maan 56.5, 11. Aries Celestial (10) Akash Agarwal 55.5 and 12. The Whispering (8) A. Ramu 54.5.
1. KING SCARFACE, 2. ANUSHTUBHA, 3. CODE OF HONOUR

3 B.K. KRISHNADEVARAJ URS MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Prince Corporate (3) Rajesh K 62.5, 2. Little Minister (5) S. Imran 60.5, 3. Lady Invictus (6) Srinath 59, 4. Mandolin (1) Noorulla 59, 5. Rapidus (7) Mabhu Sudhan 58.5, 6. Stravinsky (-) (-) 55, 7. Ebotse (11) Antony 54.5, 8. Dabeet (2) P. Sai Kumar 53.5, 9. Agera (10) L.A. Rozario 53, 10. Toscana (8) S.G. Prasad 53, 11. D Roman Power (4) A. Baandal 52.5 and 12. Absolute Conquerer (9) Siddaraju P 50.
1. LADY INVICTUS, 2. EBOTSE, 3. AGERA

4 H.H. SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 3-30: 1. Aldgate (1) Aleemuddin 62, 2. Czar (5) Antony 58, 3. Star Glory (2) M. Prabhakaran 57.5, 4. Mystic Bond (4) Abhishek Mhatre 56 and 5. Pneuma (3) Akshay K 54.
1. ALDGATE, 2. CZAR

5 SRIKANTADATTA NARASINHARAAJAWADIYAR MEMORIAL MULTI MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Indian Brocade (4) Yash 57, 2. Echoes Of Time (1) Antony 56.5, 3. Aashirvad (5) Hindu S 55, 4. Efficacy (7) Shreyas S 53.5, 5. El Rey (6) Neeraj 53.5, 6. Scent Of Rain (2) Trevor 52 and 7. Turiya (3) Akshay K 52.
1. ECHOES OF TIME, 2. INDIAN BROCADE

6 STAR OF MYSORE TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Grace (1) Kuldeep S 61, 2. Mystic Divine (8) Faiz 59.5, 3. The Golden Sunrise (3) Srinath 59.5, 4. Drisana (4) A. Baandal 57, 5. Natural Light (6) Ankit Pal 56.5, 6. Aurele (12) R. Shiva K 55.5, 7. Serai (10) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 8. Amazing Arise (7) S.G. Prasad 54, 9. Pretty Move (9) Antony 53.5, 10. Gemini (2) H. Rahul 53, 11. Isabelle (5) Brijesh K 53 and 12. Absolute Kesari (11) Ayaz Khan 50.5.
1. PRETTY MOVE, 2. THE GOLDEN SUNRISE, 3. NATURAL LIGHT

7 VARADA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Indian Glory (3) Pavan 62.5, 2. Falcon Fury (7) Srinath 61.5, 3. Ocean (5) Faiz 61, 4. Planet Super (1) S. Mubarak 60, 5. Beautiful Bloom (9) Dhanu S 59.5, 6. Knotty In Blue (4) Afsar Khan 58, 7. Phoenix Gold (6) A. Baandal 58, 8. Furious Fun (8) R. Robert 57.5, 9. Maduva Thalaivi (12) Prabhu K 57, 10. Rock My Heart (10) H. Rahul 55, 11. Trump Baby (11) Ayaz Khan 55 and 12. Nizbati Queen (2) Gautam Raj 54.5.
1. FALCON FURY, 2. BEAUTIFUL BLOOM, 3. OCEAN

Day's best: **ECHOES OF TIME**
Double: **PHOENIX SURPRISE – ALDGATE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Happiest moment turned into something tragic: Kohli on Bengaluru stampede

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru talisman Virat Kohli has opened up about the June 4 stampede during his franchise's IPL victory celebrations here, saying "nothing in life really prepares you for the heartbreak" of 11 deaths on what should have been the happiest day for his side.

The tragic incident occurred when an estimated 2.5 lakh fans thronged the at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium to celebrate RCB's maiden IPL title.

"Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June 4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history...turned into something tragic," Kohli was quoted as saying by RCB on its X handle.

Unfortunate: Kohli says he has been praying for the families of the affected ones. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

"I've been thinking of and praying for the families of those we lost...and for our fans who were injured. Your loss is part of our story now. Together, we will move forward with care, respect and responsibility," Kohli added in his first elaborate comment on the mishap that led to widespread criticism of the franchise as well.

An official inquiry into the incident attributed the chaos to the lack of proper clearances and the overwhelming crowd, which surged in response to social media invitations sent out by the franchise.

The police admitted to being grossly outnumbered to manage the turnout and RCB was held responsible in the probe for encouraging the fans to come out in numbers.

In the aftermath, RCB announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh each to the families of the deceased and pledged to take "meaningful action" in their memory.

It also launched a foundation, RCB Cares, which has promised to work closely with stadium authorities, sporting bodies and league partners to design better crowd management protocols.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Easily done: Snigdha lost just four games against Nandini.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Snigdha cruises into the quarterfinals

Top seed Snigdha Kanta eased past Nandini Kansal 6-2, 6-2 to enter the girls' singles quarterfinals at the KSLTA ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournament in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Other results (round-of-16):
Boys: Ojas Mehlawat bt Ahan Shetty 6-4, 7-6(3); M. Vishal Vasudev bt Sumer Mehta 6-0, 6-4; Dev Vipul Patel bt Srikar Doni 7-6(1), 6-4; Aditya Mor bt Niyanth Badrinarayanan (USA) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5; Pratyush Loganathan bt Rohith Gobinath 6-3, 6-4; Adhiraj Tkakur bt M. Diganth 6-3, 6-3; Om Verma bt Nishith Rajesh (USA) 7-5, 6-4; Thomas Coppi (FRA) bt Om Patel 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Girls: Deepshika Vinayagamurthy bt Sai Ananya Varanasi 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; Sree Syleswari Velmanikandan bt Saiyette Varadkar 6-1, 6-1; Srishti Kiran bt Harsha Karthika Oruganti 7-6 (4), 6-1; Disha Kumar bt Angel Patel 7-5, 6-3; Aleena Farid bt Aaradhya Meena 6-3, 7-5; Aahan Aahan bt G.D. Meghana 6-1, 6-2.

Nikhat, Lovlina's international return in focus as Indian boxers glove up

WORLD C'SHIPS

Y.B. Sarangi

Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain will be the centre of attraction for Indian fans as the country's boxers are all set to participate in the first-ever World boxing championships organised by the new international federation, World Boxing (WB), in Liverpool on Thursday.

This will be the first World championships for amateur boxers in more than two years after the International Olympic Committee disaffiliated the International Boxing Association and replaced it with WB to conduct Olympic-style boxing.

India has fielded a squad featuring a mix of youth and experience.

Notwithstanding their exceptional track records, two-time World champion Nikhat and Worlds gold medallist and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina were away from action for several months after the Paris Olympics. This will be their first international event in more than a year. Besides her quest to find top form, a major challenge for the unseeded Nikhat, who had a disappointing outing in Paris, would be to fit into 51kg.

Lovlina will compete in the 75kg category. FILE PHOTO

This will be the first World championships for amateur boxers in more than two years after the International Olympic Committee disaffiliated the International Boxing Association

Lovlina (75kg), seeded second for her Paris quarterfinal finish, is understood to have regained some rhythm.

Counterpuncher Olympian Jaismine Lamboriya (57kg) has been sharpening her attacks, while the seasoned Pooja Rani (80kg) is keen to make an impact. The best bet for India seems to be two-time World youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary (54kg), who toppled some big names during the two World Cups.

"Our sparring was good and now it's about executing our plans," said women's head coach D. Chandralal.

The Indian women went through the mandatory gender test before leaving for the United Kingdom.

For the men, former World youth champion Sachin Siwach (60kg) and Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal (90+kg) are the prominent faces. Jadumani Singh (50kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) and Sumit Kundu (75kg), who is returning after a two-year injury layoff, are the other talented boxers.

Jadumani and Pawan Bartwal (60kg) are being monitored for their weights.

> Despite the delay in visas, our boxers utilised the time spent at the Sheffield camp well to get acclimatised
> **DHARMENDRA SINGH**
> Men's head coach

"Despite the delay in visas, our boxers utilised the time spent at the Sheffield camp well to get acclimatised. Our confidence is high," said men's head coach Dharmendra Singh.

Altogether 11 out of 20 Indian boxers, including five women, have been seeded for the event.

The squad: Men: Jadumani Singh (50kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Sachin Siwach (60kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Hitesh (70kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Jugnoo (85kg), Harsh Choudhary (90kg), Narender Berwal (90+kg).
Women: Minakshi (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Sakshi Chaudhary (54kg), Jaismine Lamboriya (57kg), Sanju (60kg), Neeraj Phogat (65kg), Sanamacha Chanu (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Pooja Rani (80kg) and Nupur Sheoran (80+kg).

My priority is to prepare and perform at my best: Elavenil

SHOOTING

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Elavenil Valarivan was one of the star performers in the recent Asian shooting championship in Kazakhstan, as she won the women's air rifle gold, and the mixed air rifle gold with Arjun Babuta.

The two-time Olympian and only 23 years of age, Elavenil has tons of achievements already in the international circuit.

In fact, she had won the women's gold in the Asian championship way back in 2019. The cheerful Elavenil, who trains at the Gun For Glory centre in Chennai, at the Sri Ramachandra Medical College campus in Porur, was happy to gauge her progress in an interaction with *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

"It is more about the maturity that the sport has taught me over the years. Back then in 2019, it was my first year in the senior circuit. Now, I have the patience, enjoy the process and it is fun being in the moment. After the Paris Olympics, I have started enjoying the sport much better," said Elavenil.

All smiles: Elavenil had won two gold medals in air rifle in the Asian shooting championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She was pleased with the way she shot the women's final in Shymkent, after not being at her best in qualification.

"The qualification and final are so different. In the final, you have to be quick. Mehuli Ghosh was also shooting well. I thought we could both be on the podium. It was not to be. I was able to do my best," recalled Elavenil.

She is generally happy with the way she is shooting, not worrying about the scores or the results.

"I am not worrying about winning or not. I am following the process and staying focused on shooting each shot at my best," said Elavenil, equally thrilled about her mixed gold.

"Arjun was shooting great. In the gold medal match, we were making up for each other, and supporting each other," she said, happy to have beaten the Chinese and Koreans for the second time.

She would have loved to shoot the forthcoming World Cup in Ningbo, China, but Elavenil also concedes that others deserve a chance.

"In a way, it is good to have a break and focus on training," she said.

The focus will be the World Championship in November.

"The goals are set, but one is not worrying about the results. Anyone can do well on a given day. My job is to stay healthy and be strong physically and mentally. My priority is to prepare and perform at my best," she said.

Like most of the shooters, Elavenil is excited about the Shooting League of India (SLI) scheduled after the World Championship in Delhi.

She hopes to have a lot of fun in the novel format and help the sport grow further.